Thursday, November 17, 2011 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 342 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON (BREAKING) to 4407
INQUIRER 990AM

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

HILLARY IN MANILA President Aquino witnesses Wednesday's signing of an agreement of partnership for growth between US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (at left) and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario in Malacañang. It is a five-year Obama initiative by which a US team will work with Filipino partners to create a more transparent business environment. Clinton, here for a two-day visit, left on Wednesday. (Story below) RAFFY LERMA

GMA row delays Noy trip

SC sets Friday hearing to defuse crisis

By Marlon Ramos in Manila and TJ Burgonio in Indonesia

THE CRISIS triggered by the conflict between the executive and judicial branches over the planned trip abroad of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo loomed larger yesterday.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) said Arroyo and her husband would still be barred from leaving until the Supreme Court ruled on the appeal they had submitted.

President Aquino delayed his scheduled flight yesterday to Bali, Indonesia, where the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) opens at 9 a.m. today, so he could "monitor the situation" here, according to his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Sen. Joker Arroyo (no relation to the former President) said Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's refusal to honor the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the high court on the inclusion of Arroyo and her husband Mike Arroyo in the watch list "is a clear violation of the separation of powers."

Palace to GMA: Please stay home • Airport chief: Arroyos made it difficult for themselves / A10

'Otso Otso,' other sour notes on SC

By Jayvee T. Gavil, Jocelyn R. Uy and Christian V. Esguerra

"OTSO ARROYO" (Digha Arroyo) Supreme Court justices who had voted for the issuance of the temporary restraining order (TRO) on the travel ban on ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband won the main agenda of the press conference and snatch led by former Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros.

A member of the House of Representatives said Makabalang's "open defiance" of the tribunal could lead to a constitutional crisis.

OTSO A10

A FASCINATOR IT'S NOT A nurse protects the head of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as she boards an ambulance to take her back to St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City from Naia on Tuesday. ETA ELLEN

Where's P-Noy in all these?

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.
Columnist

OF COURSE, this is not a joking matter because of the fundamental issues involved. But in the face of the intransigence of executive officials, I cannot help but make a comparison between their actuations and those of Juan Manuel Marquez. Neither can accept a referee's decision graciously.

The first thing I would ask is: Where is the President in all these?

COMMENTARY

A basic constitutional doctrine is that the judgment of a department secretary is presumed to be the judgment of the President unless the President...

WHERE'S A/7

Arroyos will try to fly to Singapore today

By Cynthia D. Balana and Jovaron Aning

TOKYO/BALI President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will leave today for Singapore to see an ear, nose and throat specialist, her spokesperson said yesterday.

Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga, postponed her trip planned for yesterday because her "elevated" blood pressure, purportedly brought about by the refusal of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to allow her and her party to leave for abroad on Tuesday night, "has not normalized yet up to this time," Rima Bautista Hora said.

According to Hora, Arroyo and her party will fly out today for a scheduled stopover at 12:15 p.m. with an endocrinologist in Singapore.

She said Arroyo would be accompanied by her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, a nurse, a close-in aide, and two members of the couple's respective staffs.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) said the Arroyos had earlier booked passage on Singapore Airlines Flight SQ 918, which departed at 5:10 p.m. yesterday.

But the airline said the reservation was...

ARROYOS/A11

GMA lawyer bets his balls

By Marlon Ramos and Miko Morales

JUST HOW far would a lawyer or spokesperson go to defend his or her client?

Ferdinand Topacio yesterday said he would not hesitate to castrate himself to answer Malacañang that his client, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, would return home should his wife, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, receive medical treatment for her degenera...

GMA LAWYER/A11

Clinton vows greater support for PH defense

By Christine O. Avendaño

VISITING US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday vowed "greater support for external defense" of the Philippines amid rising tensions with China over the Spratlys and invited President Aquino to make a state visit to Washington early next year.

Clinton made an overnight stop in Manila en route to the East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia, to mark the 60th anniversary of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), declaring in a news conference at Malacañang that the accord "has to be updated and brought to the 21st century."

"That will require working with the Philippines to provide for greater support for external defense, particularly maritime domain awareness, defensive ones, maritime boundaries," she said at the close of a two-hour call at Malacañang.

"We want to be very sensitive to the requests and needs of the government of the Philippines

CLINTON A4

THE NAME OF THE GAME Inquirer president and Ad Congress chair Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, AdBoard president Andrea Khan and Camarines Sur Gov. Lray Villafuerte are all perched up at the start of Ad Congress 22 on Wednesday. PHILIP REALDE

Game changers meet in CamSur

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILI, Camarines Sur—All roads—and flights for that matter—lead to the CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC), where the country's advertising industry players and practitioners are holding the 22nd Philippine Ad Congress for the first time with the theme "Change the Game" in a facility built primarily for extreme sports.

Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez, who had been a principal player in the industry, will keynote the Ad Congress this evening.

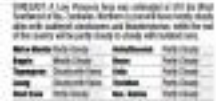
Some 2,200 people

GAME CHANGERS/A11

2012 seen as difficult for advertisers / A11

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST



SPRATLYS ROW AT ASEAN SUMMIT

PH banks on US for support

By TJ Burgonio

BALI, Indonesia—The Philippines is looking to the United States and President Barack Obama to back its multilateral initiative to peacefully resolve the territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) since its neighbors and China seem cool to the idea.

The Philippines aims to push for the initiative—which takes off from the framework to turn the West China Sea into a zone of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation (ZoPFFC) by segregating the disputed from the undisputed areas—at the 19th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Leaders' Summit and the subsidiary meetings taking place here in the next three days.

Ahead of the summit opening today, Ozias said it was hoping the dispute over Spratly Islands would not be raised in the East Asia Summit, and rejected the Philippine proposal to host a summit on the framework for ZoPFFC.

Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang said the Philippines would push the initiative at the summit and in subsidiary meetings, and China cannot possibly avoid discussions on the dispute.

He also stressed the importance of bringing the US into the dialogue on the conflicting claims over the strategic and potentially oil- and gas-rich Spratlys.

"The American presence here and the fact that they agree with our position is something that we find helpful," he told reporters in a briefing here yesterday.

Carandang acknowledged the crucial role played by the US as a counter-balance against China in the region.

"We think it's a stabilizing force to have many different players involved in the South China Sea or the West Philippine Sea issue. The more players there are, the more voices there are, will lead to more stability in the region with regard to dealing with this issue," he said.

The Spratlys, believed to be sitting on top of vast reserves of oil and natural gas, are being claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

The government acknowledged the tough work that lies ahead given the mixed signals coming from other claimant-countries over the Philippine initiative.

"I don't think there was any outright rejection of it. But you know what the Asean way is. It's not something that's going to happen overnight. There's a lot of work that lies ahead of us," Carandang said.

Don't resort to intimidation, China told

US SECRETARY of State Hillary Clinton yesterday urged claimants to the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) not to resort to intimidation to push their claims in the potentially oil-rich waters, an indirect reference to China ahead of a regional leaders' summit.

She said disputes in the sea lanes, a possible flash point in Asia, should be resolved through the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which defined rules on how countries can use the world's oceans and their resources.

That could embolden Southeast Asia's hard-nosed China, which has said it would not submit to international arbitration over competing claims to the area, believed to be rich in natural resources and a major shipping lane.

Clinton said the United States was expecting a candid discussion of the maritime dispute at the election of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit summit in Bali, Indonesia this weekend.

"The United States does not take a position on any territorial claims, because any nation with a claim has a right to assert it," she said.

"But they do not have a right to pursue it through intimidation or coercion. They should be following international law, the rule of law, the [Unclos]," she said.

The visit by President Obama will reaffirm in Bali the US interest in the maintenance of peace and security in the region, which included freedom of navigation, the rule of law and unimpeded lawful commerce, with the Unclos as the overriding framework for territorial disputes.

The Philippines hopes to declare as part of the sea on the Unclos, which establishes jurisdiction over natural resources 200 nautical miles (370 km) from a country's coast.

There have been concerns about China's enforcement of its claim this year in areas claimed by Vietnam and the Philippines.

Other Asean claimants view a US presence and a multilateral approach to negotiations as strengthening their stance against China's all-encompassing claim on the sea.

Reuters

Wildlife activists seek protection for hunted gecko species

KUALA LUMPUR—Wildlife activists on Wednesday called for the strictly-protected Tokay Gecko to be conferred under its second laws following a spike in smuggling of the lizard, mainly for medicine in China.

International wildlife trade monitoring network TraffIc said in a statement that the trade, both legal and illegal, in the gecko doubled the six blue-grey skin and head crush was on the rise across Southeast Asia.

"If the trade continues unsupervised, it could take years to repair the damage currently being inflicted on gecko populations," he added.

The animals are captured across Southeast Asia, especially the Philippines as well as Indonesia, according to a new report launched by TraffIc, which points out their "ingenious collection."

They are usually killed and dried, and shipped to China for use in traditional medicine billed to cure various diseases, including AIDS and cancer. Today some or subsidiary is also sold as an energy booster.

"Recently, the traditional demand for Tokay Geckos has skyrocketed, with dozens of new websites in Malaysia, a major hub of the trade, dedicated to buying and selling Tokay Geckos," the statement said.

The Tokay Gecko, which can grow up to 40 centimeters (15.7 inches), are also popular pets. AFP

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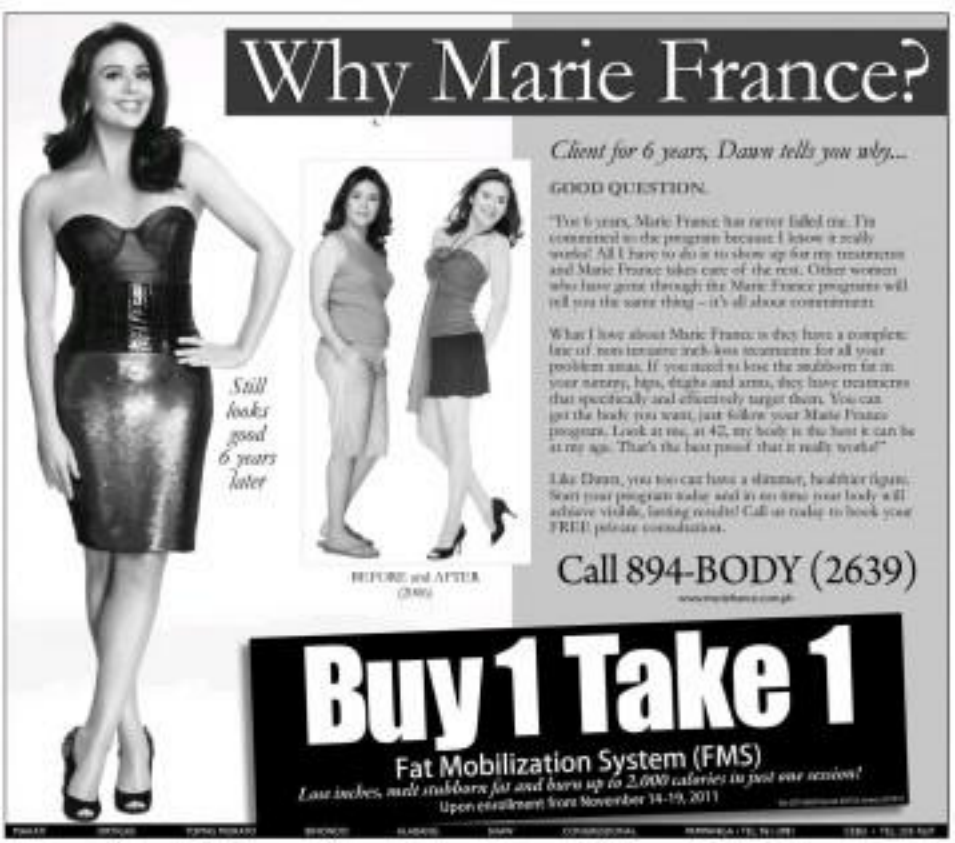
3 YEARS



APEC FINANCE MINISTERS
Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima (center, back row) joins the Finance Ministers Meeting of the 21-member economies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) in Nichi Honolulu recently to address risks of the global economy to restore confidence, financial stability and sustainable growth. Apec released during the weekend its commitment for concrete actions with the region to strengthen economic integration and trade expansion, promote green growth, and advance regulatory convergence and cooperation.

DACER-CORBITO SLAY TRIAL

Former Ping aides face-to-face in court

By Jayson T. David

FOR PERHAPS the first time, former police colleagues and double-murder suspects Gene Matsuo and Michael Ray Aquino faced each other in court yesterday at the continuation of the Dacer-Corbito murder trial at the Manila Regional Trial Court's Branch 32.

Matsuo had implicated Aquino and his former superior, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for the murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver's driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in 2000, claiming that he had heard Lacson order Aquino to carry out the killings.

The three worked together in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), whose top people are accused of carrying out the murders. Lacson headed the PAOCTF during the short-lived Estrada presidency.

After fleeing the country and hiding out for 10 years in the United States, Aquino was eventually lured to the Philippines last June to face the murder charges, to which he has pleaded not guilty.

Matsuo, another co-indicted figure, was promised by the prosecution as a witness against Aquino.

The nearly three-hour closed-door hearing yesterday was meant for Matsuo to positively identify Aquino in court. However, the hearing ended up focusing mainly on the Aquino lawyers' cross-examination of Matsuo, attempting to impeach him as a credible witness, said Manuel Joseph Dayrit, one of the defense lawyers.

"I think the results were favorable to us because [Matsuo's] testimony was riddled with inconsistencies," Dayrit said.

One of them, he said, was Matsuo denying he knew about a Court of Appeals decision describing him as an "unreasonably" witness, though records show that he had even signed a motion for a reconsideration of the ruling.

The February appellate court decision ruled that there was no probable cause to indict Lacson for the murders, and said Matsuo was "not a credible and trustworthy witness."

Aquino's lawyers are trying to use the claim calling to have their client similarly cleared of the charges.

But senior state prosecutor Phillip Ilusiso said the appellate court ruling is an appeal with the Supreme Court and was then "not final."

He added that it applied only to Lacson and not all of the accused.

Despite being on opposing sides, Ilusiso said that Matsuo and Aquino were "civil" and even "friendly" to each other, even making small talk before the hearing began.

But Ilusiso said that for the duration of the hearing, they largely ignored each other, with Aquino acting quietly in a corner.

The cross-examination and the hearing will continue on Nov. 23. The presentation of evidence for all the accused, including Aquino, may follow after the cross-examination of Matsuo.

In May 2003, the justice department cleared Lacson and others charged in the murders of Dacer and Corbito. Lacson was not among the PAOCTF officials charged. Neither was former Supt. Jemlo Vita, the PAOCTF deputy chief of operations for Luzon, whose testimony tagged as the leader of the group that killed Dacer and Corbito and burned their remains. In January 2003, Vitar was shot dead in Tanza, Cavite.

The highest-ranking police officer to be charged for the crime now is Gen. Eduardo Ermita, the PAOCTF deputy chief of operations for Luzon. In an affidavit, Ermita said Lacson and deposed President Joseph Estrada may have had knowledge of the murders, which they denied.

Ermita also claimed that Aquino and Matsuo were part of the group that planned the murders. Aquino and Matsuo fled the country in July 2001. They were charged in absentia in September 2001. Ermita also filed his affidavit recently in May 2003.

In November 2008, Matsuo and Dimlao were arrested in the US. They were both extradited in 2009. Aquino was extradited last June after serving a sentence of three-year jail term in a US jail for espionage.

Bishop wants end to dirty talk on air

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MISSIONARIES, the dirty talk and foul language spewed on air by some DJs' radios (the jockeys-DJs, a Catholic bishop has called on the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) to discipline them.

Surnagan, Bishop Arturo Bastes said the KBP must make it, by member these DJs, especially the ones who go on late at night.

"Some of the DJs, especially on midnight programs, use indecent and vulgar language which is not good since we are a Christian country," Bastes said over Church-run Radio Veritas on Tuesday.

He said that listening to FM stations was no longer a relaxing and joyful experience since some DJs resort to "slander and insulting social personalities in their spiels."

'Shameful'

Calling it "shameful," the bishop said DJs must use language that honors the character and morality of Filipinos.

He said the public didn't need this kind of violent-aimed stress "our people are already caught up in the mindset world."

"I hope (the DJs) would help build our nation with good language, good words, good sense and good speeches," said Bastes, a member of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Permanent Council.

'Harsher and punish'

He urged the KBP to be more discerning in its monitoring of radio and television stations. "The KBP should really monitor and punish those DJs who use filthy language," he said.

Contacted for comments and updates of radio and television stations, the KBP is the primary broadcast media organization in the country.

It exercises self-regulation to uphold the highest standards of quality in the broadcast industry.

NY gastronauts feast on balut, lamb eyeball

NEW YORK—Balut, lamb eyeball and beaver tail are just a few of the more unusual dishes sampled by a club of adventurous eaters called the Gastronauts.

Started in March of 2008 by ten friends who wanted to try some of the more exotic foods that could be found in New York, the first meeting of the club attracted 15 members.

But it has now grown to more than 1,000 members in New York and Los Angeles and there are plans to expand to other US cities.

"I've always been a big fan of new foods. I'll never say no," said Dottie Culley, an art director and graphic designer who founded the club with magazine editor Jim Hodges.

"Gastronauts is a great way to meet new people, try new foods, and explore the city."

Culley said the club is open to everyone, and counts bankers, artists, journalists, designers and an acupuncturist among its members. There are no fees to join and members pay for their own meals which are held monthly in restaurants.

Initiation to the meals, which are normally for 20-30 people, are sent via e-mail. Dinners often fill up quickly.

"It's a social experience as well as a culinary experience," Culley explained. "We get a lot of stories about travel and food related dishes, like Montezuma's revenge," he added, referring to the stomach upset caused by eating unfamiliar foods or drinking local water.

Culley and Hodges both spent their childhoods living in various countries, which sparked their curiosity about unfamiliar foods.

At their last gathering in New York they ate balut, which is a Philippine snack of boiled fertilized duck egg.

"That's a treat only people eat the stuff," Culley said. "In many cases, cultures have had hundreds of years to tame the food palatable or even enjoyable."

While no one is forced to eat anything, he said the goal is to "try to try," which reflects the group's spirit of culinary adventure.

"We want the people to change their minds once they're here," he said. "I think it's a treasure of pure pressure and a exhilarating environment."

At the October Gastronauts dinner at a Yemeni restaurant dub Al Yemen in New York, Nicole Murray an author and food writer was refusing over a steaming tomato-based piece of cooked meat, a cooked lamb skull and brought it around her mouth as those seated around her shouted.

"It's kind of jelly-like," she said, during her first Gastronauts dinner.

Culley compared it to an earlier club served during the meal.

"The eye area usually isn't as creamy as the brain," he said. "It's springy but not gooey like fat."

Reuters

UP LAW CENTENNIAL
Members of the UP Law centennial commission, advisers and members met recently to discuss the calendar of activities, various plans and programs for the UP Law Centennial celebration, among them the groundbreaking ceremonies for the UP College of Law campus at the Bonifacio Global City. During the meeting, the UP College of Law Commemorative Legal Seminar and Grand Alumni Homecoming Presents at the meeting were: (from left) Victor Buendia Pineda, Philippine Civil Liberties Union; Michael Ilded, Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., IDM Network CEO Felipe Gozon, former Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Deputy SSP Governor Dino Guinigundo.

Brillantes vows to purge Comelec of 'small syndicates'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE DAYS of "small syndicates" in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) are numbered.

Comelec Chief Sixto Brillantes Jr. yesterday declared that he would be running after "syndicates" within the organization purportedly involved in the selling of election returns and certificates of canvass during elections.

Purging these unscrupulous employees in the organization was a vital move to ensuring the integrity of the election body, said Brillantes during his keynote speech during the "Integrity Summit" at the Comelec yesterday.

"While the big majority of the employees and senior staff of the Comelec are not involved, there are others, small syndicates within the organization, still existing," he said. "Those we are in the subject of purgesity, I feel that I should move fast on this and pull them out of this organization."

The "cleansing" of the election body would begin in "few days or weeks," according to the poll chief. "We will be going after individuals who are within the small syndicates in the Comelec," he warned.

Separated twins ready to go home

KINDERGARTEN students of the M.L. Adriano Memorial Elementary School in Barangay Inghamis, Angat, Bulacan (from) present a song number to representatives of Gawad Kalinga, Pagcor and DepEd at the signing ceremony of the memorandum of agreement for Building Structures for our Children's Future. Signing the memorandum of agreement (right photo, from left to right) are Dilan Santiago (Deped), Jose Luis Cuyugan (GK executive director), Cristino Naguiat Jr. (Pagcor chairman and chief executive officer), and Nancy Esquivel (Pagcor).

REUNITED: Angelina and Angelica in the arms of their mother and aunt.

MALO ALFO, Calibrita...Twin sisters, who had been joined at the chest are preparing to leave the hospital two weeks after surgery...each to their own tot nest.

Angelina and Angelica Sobosoo have been recovering at a California hospital since their May 3 operation. The hospital on Monday said that the 2-year-olds should be able to return home in the next couple of days.

Angelina and Angelica were born in the Philippines and live in California.

"They are recovering very, very well," said surgeon Dr. Gary Hartman. "Our goal is to return as many children as we can to happy, healthy lives."

Hartman said he gets no off pain medications and their lives are functioning normally. They will continue seeing specialists for months' outpatient therapy, and they will see a plastic surgeon, Dr. Peter Lorenz, for follow-up procedures. Lorenz said the girls' chest walls have a bit of an abnormal shape but it can be molded as they grow.

Angelina and Angelica also will continue physical and occupational therapy to build up their strength and develop their motor skills, the hospital said.

The girls made their pre-surgery debut during a news conference at the hospital Monday.

Wearing bright red dresses with bows in their hair and held by their mother and aunt, the girls appeared at ease with all the attention. Their mother, Gisely Sobosoo, smiled and laughed and urged her daughters to wave and say hello as they approached reporters.

"We're so excited now to go home and are down staring in their own car seats," she said. "We cannot wait to see them playing, walking and running."

The girls underwent surgery in separate beds; their appetites are growing and they are learning how to walk again. Remarkably, even as they were joined at the chest, the girls had learned to walk last month more or less in unison. They are now learning to go forward and backward.

"Balance is the biggest challenge," said Amy Silverman, physical therapist. "They are now taking steps with support."

Within 72 hours of the 13-hour surgery, both girls were breathing on her own. Within a week, they had moved from intensive care to a regular hospital room.

A team of more than 40 doctors, nurses and hospital staff took part in the case. AP

Pagcor, GK to build 100 classrooms in poor areas

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) will finance the construction of 100 classrooms in communities served by the Gawad Kalinga Community development foundation (GK).

"With more funds, our work will not end with building classrooms. We plan to bring more projects to support our people in these endeavors," said Pagcor chair and chief executive officer Cristino Naguiat Jr.

"The prudent management of public funds has allowed Pagcor to finance the classroom project with Gawad Kalinga," Naguiat said at the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Building Structures for our Children's Future held on Nov. 9 at the M.L. Adriano Memorial Elementary School, Barangay Inghamis, Angat, Bulacan.

Pagcor said in a press statement it will provide P66 million to fund the construction of the classrooms. GK, which has already put up hundreds of thousands of homes for poverty-stricken Filipinos, will administer the construction of the classrooms. The Department of Education will manage the schools once the structures have been completed.

Volunteers of Pilipinas Nuño, a volunteerism movement launched by President Aquino himself, will also help build the classrooms.

M.L. Adriano Memorial Elementary School principal Lolita Gerbolas and Inamgay captain Secretaria Manlo thanked Pagcor and GK for their efforts to provide learning facilities for the children of Barangay Inghamis.

Grade school students entertained Pagcor, DepEd, and GK representatives with a poem, a dance number, and the Gawad Kalinga song.

GK executive director Jose Luis Cuyugan presented the design of the classrooms to the parents. He said that the technology used will be environmentally friendly and that the classrooms will have clean toilets, a teacher's cubbyhouse, and even a room where children can be taught how to brush their teeth.

He also presented a map showing the locations all over the country where the 99 classrooms will be built. Pagcor and GK are also planning to build classrooms in Iloilo and in other parts of Mindanao.

Pagcor in July earmarked P1 billion for the construction of 1,000 classrooms for students in public elementary and high schools nationwide. There's also a separate P1 billion check to President Aquino on his 1000th day in office. The classrooms will be built in partnership with the Department of Education and nongovernment organizations such as GK.

Agri lowers forecast for 2011 rice production

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has scaled down its 2011 rice production forecast by 4.1 percent to 16.66 million metric tons (MT) after typhoons that hit the country in the second half of the year pulled down the output's first harvests.

The DA Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (DA-BAS) said estimated paddy yield could reach 19.56 million MT in 2011, 5.7 percent higher than the 2010 output of 18.77 million MT.

However, the projected rice production was 700,000 MT less than the 17.4 million MT target set by the DA at the start of the year as part of its goal to make the country rice self-sufficient.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said the damage as imposed by the Santa Isabel is the first half of the year due to favorable weather was tempered by the typhoons in the second semester.

"The final farmer quotation were above average, but the typhoons hit us; that is the reality," Alcala told reporters. He noted that the country's rural farm output for 2011 could grow by only between 2-2.5 percent, well below his five percent growth target envisioned at the start of the year.

Rice is the staple in the Philippines, thus big with 10%, which was seen to top at 8.99 million MT, 5% percent above the 2010 output of 8.56 million MT, the commodity accounts for half of the national agriculture value.

DA-BAS said the second harvest typhoons in the second half of 2011 took its toll on rice paddies. From July-December, BAS said it expects rice output to decline by 6 percent to 9.13 million MT.

In the last quarter of 2011, which saw two destructive typhoons, Pedring and Quiel, on the country, production forecast based on remaining crops reported to a decrease of 0.8 percent from last year's level of 6.38 million MT. BAS said rice output could total 3.93 million MT in the last quarter.

"This is largely because of the adverse effects of typhoons Pedring and Quiel on standing palay crops," BAS said.

The typhoons also affected farm lands, particularly in major rice-producing regions. Central Luzon, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley and Mimaropa appeared to have suffered the brunt of the storms.

According to BAS, harvest area was seen to decline in the last quarter by 0.6 percent to 1.67 million hectares. Yield per hectare may be reduced by 3.3 percent, from 3.86 MT to 3.31 MT.

For the first quarter of 2012, the Philippines is eyeing to harvest 4.08 million MT.

Should the happen, it would surpass the 4.02 million MT output in the first three months of 2011, which was the highest quarter harvest recorded in Philippine history.

DedpEd to expand feeding program

By Kristine Felice Mangunay

IT'S hunger season hindi nakikita sa mata.

By former address: undernourishment among public school children in the country, the Department of Education has hatched plans to expand its feeding programs to 15 provinces and a city within the school year.

The move, Education Secretary Armin Luistro said, is also an attempt to improve the academic performance of the students, who, according to him, are the "most vulnerable" to sleep out because of the virus.

"This is the most vulnerable group of children who have difficulty paying attention to the lessons in class because of hunger and are in danger of dropping out if no intervention is made," Luistro said.

The breakfast feeding program was first implemented in 1997 in Pangasinan, Bohol and Lanao del Norte.

Aside from the 16 provinces, the agency said that the program would be expanded to schools from the divisions of Quirino, Zambales, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Tarlac, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Iloilo, Zamboanga del Norte, Davao Oriental, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Siargao, Maguindanao, and Quezon City.

At present, the DepEd estimates 62,000 schoolchildren benefiting from the program.

"Our specific objective is to ensure All to 100 percent attendance among the target pupils and improve their health and nutrition values and behavior," Luistro explained.

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COPING, HOPING, REBUILDING

Japan rapidly recovering beyond its expectations

By Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.
Correspondent

SENDAI, Japan—As one nears the airport here, six hours drive from the city center, one can see the backhoes in open spaces near the coast just as often as seeing rainbow or three-hues in new fields along the North Luzon Expressway in the Philippines during the harvest season.

Not far from the backhoes are mounds of debris, an indication of the extent has been done to clean up the wreckage and eliminate bits by the earthquake-induced tsunami that swamped this city on March 11 this year.

Roads and basic infrastructure have been repaired, and the economy boomed in newly built areas of prefectural housing units.

In some respects, the Sendai airport, a regional transportation hub a kilometer from the coast, embodies the quickness by which Japan has gotten back on its feet.

Looking spic-and-span is the then-new terminal, which now hums with activity as passengers arrive or leave on domestic and international flights.

The terminal hardly shows traces of the earthquake that lofted 10.0 in gallons and of the damage caused by a 3-metre wall of seawater that swamped its lobby.

Japan has revamped coastal codes," Masaaki Nishimura, deputy minister for foreign affairs, told a group of Asian journalists earlier.

Economy grows by 2.3%

Noriyuki Makita, a deputy Cabinet secretary, described the rapid recovery of the country's supply chains as "beyond our expectations."

This was evident in the 6-percent annualized growth that Japan posted in the third quarter, its first economic expansion in four quarters.

The International Monetary Fund expects the Japanese economy to grow by 2.3 percent in 2012, the highest growth rate among developed countries, according to Nishimura.

Heavy spending

Postponed spending to fuel the country's economic growth.

The lower house of the Diet (parliament) approved this month a third supplementary spending package of 12 trillion yen (about $155 billion).

SPECIAL REPORT

The first and second supplementary budgets totaling 6.14 trillion yen were mostly to finance response, and reconstruction. Media reports of the establishment by the Reconstruction Headquarters in Tokyo.

Of the amount, 1.2 trillion yen went to public infrastructure projects, 6467 billion yen to loans in response to the disaster, 462.9 billion yen to disaster relief and other measures, 277.4 billion yen to people affected by the disaster and 270.4 billion yen to compensation for damage caused by the nuclear disaster.

Over the next 10 years, Japan plans to spend 23 trillion yen (8 trillion of which is to be disbursed in the first years, for the reconstruction of regions devastated by the natural and nuclear disasters, according to Sudo.

The government has come up with guidelines for reconstruction, framed largely on the response to the Prime Ministry of the Reconstruction Design Council.

Hope beyond disaster

The report, titled "Towards Hope beyond the Disaster," was prepared by 18 people, including academicians, writers and governors of prefectures. Its special advisor and honorary chair was Takashi Uchiyama, a philosopher.

Sudo said Uchiyama was included in the advisory council to provide the cultural and historical aspect.

Among the council's recommendations was the development of tsunami-resilient communities.

Escape route

"Before, we focused on preventing damage from disaster. The idea still holds but the tsunami taught us that this can be overwhelmed by a major disaster," Sudo said.

He said there was a need to train residents to escape because it cannot be left by consistent.

The advisory council underscores this idea.

"If we limit our efforts on a concept of disaster evaluation, we must certainly focus on people-oriented measures that move away from an exclusive reliance on man-made defensive structures. Instead, we must engage in thorough disaster preparedness education based on the fundamental concept of 'escape' and develop hazard maps," it said.

"Furthermore, in addition to breakwaters, the function of setback levees must be enhanced, utilizing transport facilities and other measures. Land will also need to be raised on man-made embankments, where areas, roads and buildings for evacuation can be developed," the council said.

Sudo said the government was also considering relocating communities vulnerable to tsunami to higher grounds.

To address the aging and population loss in the Tohoku region, the reconstruction office seeks to promote new industries and employment opportunities.

Sixth industry

Sudo said part of the strategy was to create high added-value by pushing for what he called the "sixth industry."

He said this would involve promoting environmentally sound agriculture, logistics, marketing and distribution.

Renewable energy including a smart grid, will also be promoted.

Radiation dangers

The design council said it was impossible to reconsider evacuation without addressing rebuilding the areas affected by the nuclear accident.

It said a major premise of the reconstruction was "bringing the nuclear accident to a complete or quickly as possible."

The council said it was important to give the Japanese people a sense of security and trust by "transparency and information disclosure about the nuclear accident through continuous information disclosure, including the release of primary data that have strong scientific grounding."

But of the rebuilding plan is to step up special economic zones, which will offer tax incentives and streamlined regulations and administrative procedures.

"A small town may prefer an economic zone. A city may propose another," Nishimura said. "I hope foreign firms will come to, too."

Financing all this will require raising reconstruction bonds and imposing temporary tax measures.

"How to finance that by taxation is a political debate. But there should be some tax increase for a time," Nishimura said.

Inclusive society

The council also recommended the building of "an inclusive society that does not leave anyone behind," including people of those who are able to easily secure their views."

It identified those people as the youth who have are to find their place in their communities, the elderly and persons with disability who tend to be isolated, and women who have difficulty voicing their opinions.

But Haruyuki Takeuchi, chief of inspection of Ishinomaki-Ishi Shimbun, thinks that members of Parliament do not listen to the voices of the disaster victims.

"It seems that they do not care about the real situation here. Ishinomaki lost most of the disasters in Diet," Takeuchi said last month's visit on the Diet passed the third supplementary spending package for reconstruction.

Takeuchi lives on the second floor of his house along with his wife, three children and parents, who are already in their 80s because the first floor was destroyed by the tsunami. Their water service has not been restored.

Preserve lessons

The advisory council's last recommendation was for Japan to record and preserve the lessons learned from the recent disasters and pass them on to the next generation.

"[To] ensure that the lessons that Japan [earthquake is not forgotten, it is hoped that the species stories to the disaster-affected regions will be extended to create a 'disaster culture' through the participation of many people and on the initiative of local communities," the council said.

Clinton vows greater support for PH defense

From page A1

and we need to make it clear that our military relationship, like any aspect of our relationship, is our based on mutual respect and mutual interest and we think that the time has come for us to look into how we can update our military relationship moving into the future, knowing that there are new challenges and new opportunities for us to be working together," she said.

Clinton said the extended US President Barack Obama's invitation to Ms. Aquino to visit Washington.

Meeting in Washington

"I'm not looking forward to President Obama welcoming President Aquino to the White House, to the Oval Office sometime early next year because we have a lot of work to do," she said at the joint conference with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

Clinton said she and US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta will meet with Del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin in Washington in January to look at the military partnership of the two countries—something that she stressed the United States had only previously done with longer allies Japan, Australia and South Korea.

Earlier on a morning-led day on Manila Bay, Clinton boarded the USS Fitzgerald, a US Navy destroyer based in California, as she signed a declaration reading the MDT with shipmates.

"My main reason that this alliance remains strong, capable of delivering results for the people of the Philippines and the United States and our neighbors throughout the Pacific," Clinton said from the deck of the warship.

Always in PH corner

Later in Malacañang, she told reporters, "Let me say, the US will always be in the corner of the Philippines. We will always stand and fight with you to advance the future we seek." The made the remark while praising the controversial victory of former Pangasinan Gov. Mercedes Jones Arias Macapagal at the weekend in Las Vegas.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Aquino and Del Rosario entered into talks about maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Clinton stressed that the United States was very much committed to Asia and the Pacific and would engage in discussions of "maximize security challenges in the region and how to address them cooperatively."

She said at the joint inspection of the United States in the US Navy meeting in Bali this week was a "very strong message about our level of commitment is to the region and to the many issues that we confront."

Mr. Aquino and Obama will collect the US-Asean meeting in Bali. The two leaders are to meet in the Indonesian resort island on Friday.

Asked whether the United States would support the Philippine claims to territorial claims in the Spratlys before the United Nations, Clinton said that Washington "strongly" holds the view that the dispute of the Philippines and China over the West Philippine Sea, using Manila's reference to the South China Sea, "should be resolved peacefully."

"The United States does not take a position on any territorial claim because any nation with a claim would have the right to assert it, but they do not have the right to pursue it through intimidation or coercion. They should follow the international law, the rule of law," Clinton mention of the Law of the Sea Convention," she said.

Multilateral approach

For his part, Del Rosario reiterated that the country sought to have a peaceful resolution in its dispute with China and noted a multilateral approach to overcome claims on the Spratlys.

But in the same time, he said that the country was "interested in being able to validate our claim" in the disputed area through the UN convention and possible international conciliation.

"We will try all likelihood proceed to the conciliatory measures, mediation and be able to secure a satisfaction of our claim from that particular mechanism," Del Rosario said.

The Philippines bases its claim to a part of the Spratlys, which are also being claimed by Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam, on Treaty, which establishes jurisdiction over land and waters 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the country's coast.

There have been concerns about China's enforcement of its claim the area in some claimed by Vietnam and the Philippines including the melting of cables on survey ships, threats to seize vessels and breaches of an agreement by military aircraft.

Mr. Aquino has said that China repeatedly expanded the Philippines as a "strategic ally, a nation that shares our democratic values, the ancestral home of Filipino-Americans, and an important trade and development partner."

"And may I add, a country with one of the highest Facebook penetration rates in the world," the said, eliciting laughter from the audience.

She said that Filipinos like American voters "expect government to make more opportunities, to have a voice in their own country and in global debates."

Partnership for growth

President Aquino confirmed to Clinton the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Bituon.

Clinton and Del Rosario also signed a joint statement of intent on the Partnership for Growth between the United States and the Philippines, a five-year effort to "accelerate inclusive economic growth."

"Through the Partnership for Growth, a team from across the US government will work closely with partners in the Filipino government to create more transparent and predictable business environment, lower barriers to trade and strengthen the rule of law and the fight against corruption," Clinton said.

"Together, we hope to deliver an array of benefits to the people, including foreign investment, to create new jobs, a more vibrant, knowledge economy that can deliver public and prevent local businesses, better services and more resources to fight poverty," she said.

IN THE KNOW

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States signed on Aug. 30, 1951, the Mutual Defense Treaty, a pact which each of the other's defense against an armed attack.

Article II of the treaty stipulates that "the parties separately and jointly by self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack."

The treaty further specifies that "an armed attack on either of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of either of the parties or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean, its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific."

In addition, the Mutual Defense Board was established on May 13, 1958, "to provide a continuing intergovernmental machinery for consultation between appropriate Philippine and United States authorities on military matters of mutual concern."

The board, headquartered in Malacañang, also established on the Philippine Council of Foreign Ministers to ensure the implementation of the treaty. It is confirmed by the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US military representative of the country, or relevant designated by them, and consideration of matters referred to the two countries.

The board conducts meetings three to four. In previous meetings, it planned military training exercises, joint maritime operations, personnel exchanges, ship visits, security assistance activities and maritime surveillance. It also discussed security issues that the two could attack, humanitarian assistance, including incidents involving US military, and the controversial investigation in the Philippines. *Inquirer Archives*

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Robredo vows action vs criminals on motorbike

By DJ Yap

INTERIOR Secretary Jesse M. Robredo has assured the public of better police response to crimes by motorcycle-riding gunmen, which appear to be on the rise.

Robredo said the Philippine National Police (PNP) has already adopted some measures to stop the proliferation of crimes committed by motorcycle-riding offenders, or what the police refer to as "riding-in-tandem" criminals.

Robredo, who chairs the National Police Commission, earlier ordered the PNP to conduct operations against the new criminal phenomenon amid reports of the increasing number of people falling prey to motorcycle-riding crooks, especially in Metro Manila.

He also asked PNP chief, Director-General Nicanor A. Bartolome, to submit to assessment report on such operations.

Bartolome has admitted that there has been an increase in crimes involving motorcycle-riding criminals this year.

Increase in suspects

According to the records, there were 1,700 crimes by motorcycle-riding suspects from January to September, compared to 1,503 for the same period last year.

But Bartolome noted that efforts were being undertaken to solve the problem, such as the implementation of the Police Operational Patrol System, and the deployment of motorcycle-mounted police officers known as Motorized Anti-Street Crime Operatives (Masco).

The deployment of the Masco, whose members are required to undergo a basic tactical rider's course, is aimed at preventing robberies, "carnapping/carjackings," kidnapping and similar other crimes.

The police chief said police visibility has been maximized with the deployment of administrative personnel from the PNP headquarters to field assignments, particularly in the metropolitan area.

He said PNP field commanders have also been directed to optimize police personnel deployments in the streets, malls, banks, transport terminals, airports/seaports, and other places where people converge.

They have been directed to implement "Kontra Bugaw" and "Operation Rabid," which are operations against bum threatens, and "Oplan Gisi" and "Sin Plate, No Travel" programs in the case of motorcycle-riding criminals.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 17 (Thursday)
Feriae' Week 1
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
of Elizabeth of Hungary
1Ti 3E; Ti-2; 3-5; 4-11
In this epistle I will show Thy saving power of God.

1st Reading: 1 Mac 2: 15-29

...The representatives of the king addressed Mattathias, and said to him: "You are one of the leaders of this city, an important and well-known man, and your many children and relatives follow you. Come now and be the first to fulfill the king's order, as the council-individuals already done, and the members-friends as well. You and your sons will be named friends of the King and the king will send you gold, silver and many other gifts." But Mattathias answered in a loud voice: "Even if all the nations included in the kingdom should abandon the religion of their ancestors and submit to the order of King Antiochus, I, my sons and my family will remain faithful to the Covenants of our ancestors. May God preserve us from abandoning the Law and its precepts. We will not obey the orders of the king nor turn aside from our religion either to the right or to the left."

When he finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of everyone to offer incense on the altar that was built in Modein according to the King's decree. When Mattathias saw him, he was filled with zeal, his heart was stirred, and giving vent to his right-eous anger, he drew himself on the Jew and cut the man's throat on the altar. At the same time, he killed the king's representative who was forcing the people to offer sacrifice, and then tore down the altar. In doing this, he showed his zeal for the Law, as Phinehas had done with Cozri, son of Salu.

Mattathias then began to proclaim loudly in the city: "Everyone who is zealous for the Law and supports the Covenant, come out and follow me!" Immediately he and his sons fled to the mountains and left behind all they had in the city.

Gospel: Lk 19:41-44

When Jesus had come in sight of Jerusalem, he wept over it and said, "If only today you knew the ways of peace! But now your eyes are hid-den from seeing. For days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with bar-ricades and shut you in and press you from every side. And they will dash you to the ground and your children with you, and leave not a stone within you, for you did not recog-nize the time and the visitation of your God."

Reflection:

Every day is a revelation of God's love for His people. Even in the ordinariness of our day-to-day living, God is making himself known to us. God speaks to us not only in our faith in the Word and celebration of the Eucharist, but also in the ev-ery-day occurrences and encounters and events, good or bad. After so many activities and preoccupations, at the end of the day, when we look back at what had happened to us, we ask ourselves "Did we recognize that God has always been there?" When we consciously seek to recognize His presence in the ordinariness of God, it leads us to His self-disclosure.

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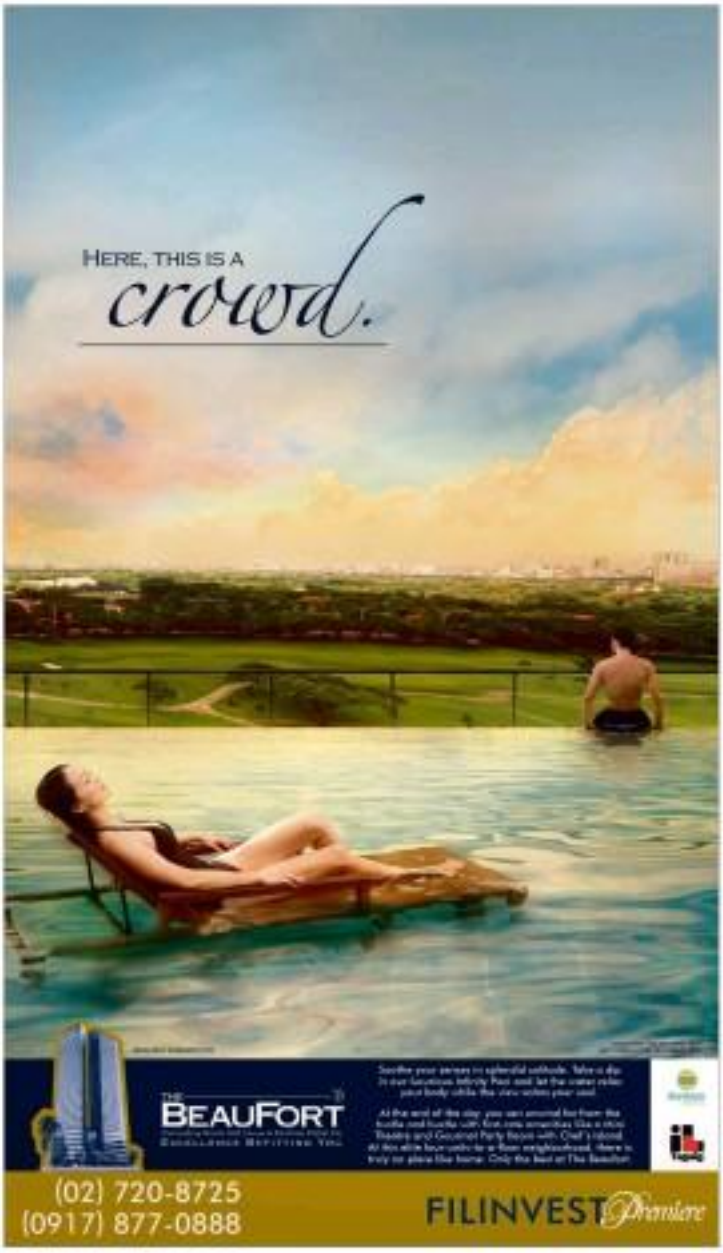

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

2 provinces swamped with gold rush migrants seeking fortune

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A new wave of fortune seekers is swamping areas in two Mindanao provinces believed to be rich in gold deposits and has triggered what officials said was a new gold rush that brought with it a host of problems like killings over conflicting small-scale mining claims.

In Zamboanga del Sur, the mayor of Siayan town said more and more people are clamoring to stake their claim in search of gold in a frenzy that he said was reminiscent of the gold rush in Mt. Diwalwal in the 1980s.

"People are arriving," said Mayor Leonardo Babaan Jr. "It's bustling, like Diwalwal."

Babaan said it was easy to understand the gold rush. Traces of gold could reach P2,300 per gram, he said.

The mayor, however, said the gold rush was giving local officials problems that weren't there before.

"There is an increased report of deaths, either by fighting over an area where to dig or people simply dying due to diseases while digging," Babaan said.

In Compostela Valley, local officials and miners said they believed that the magnet for the influx of fortune seekers are mainly reports of newly discovered gold veins in the mountains of Diwalwal more than reports of rising prices of gold in the world market.

Arturo Uy, Compostela Valley governor, said more small- and large-scale miners are flocking to the province's 11 towns because of reports of better prospects of finding gold.

"The discovery of supposed rich deposits in the main driving force," Uy said in a recent interview.

He said, however, that his province benefited from the spike in gold prices. Gold is selling for approx. Php for P1,900 to P2,000 per gram.

Ivy Lucas, a miner in the gold-rich village of Pantukan in Maragusan town, said at least 2,000 people have flocked to the village and started digging for gold since June.

GOLD PROCESSING is a cottage industry in Diwalwal. EDGAR SUSVILLA

"Some panhiter have good deposits but you have to dig deeper," said Lucas. Many miners, he said, get financing from businessmen in Tagum to run their operations.

"What we're after is rich, shallow gold deposits," he said.

Uy said to prevent a repeat of deadly conflicts in previous gold rush episodes, the province has been regulating the operations of both small- and large-scale mining in close coordination.

Mayors, he said, consistently monitor gold rush sites to enforce ordinances on safe mining practices.

In Compostela town, new gold prospects in the community of Banga in Ngan village drew hundreds of people to the area. Workers in banana plantations and other "nonminers" have joined the frenzy said Mayor Jessie Belo.

"We really cannot control these people," said Belo. All they town officials could do, he said, was to enforce rules to reduce mine wastes and prevent pollution. Mining is tedious, he said, but lures are easily cast off thing since gold was discovered there in the early 1980s.

In the capital town of Nabunturan, officials are trying to prevent small-scale miners researching into the Manat Ka. forest Park, which is now threatened by pollution from mine tailings.

A gold rush area in the village of Matutok has been shut down due to complaints from residents and environment officials, said a staffer at the office of Mayor Romeo Cleto. "But they keep coming back," said the staffer, who asked not to be identified.

Governor Uy said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was "amenable" to a proposal to delineate portions of the mineral park as mining areas. "We've learned harsh lessons," said Uy. *Julie Alipala and Felicanos Dio, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cebu cargo yields gun parts, bullets during check

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The Bureau of Customs in Cebu stopped the release of a container van that was declared to carry used household items but yielded gun parts yesterday, customs officials said.

Cebu Customs District Collector Ronnie Silvestre said he stopped the release of the shipment pending complete inspection to determine the volume of gun parts that were hidden among the used household items.

So far, customs officials found ammunition and parts of M-14 and M-16 rifles.

Aside from gun parts, the container van also yielded six US-made motorcycles.

The shipment, which was declared as household goods, was consigned to Bernie R. Ramos of No. 1113-1 Pinal St., Barangay Sunclad, Mandaue City.

Based on the bill of lading, the shipment came from California and received at the Cebu International Port on Nov. 3 on board Cebu Trader, a vessel of the KTE Line.

The bill of lading stated that the shipment is composed of 100 packages and weighed 7,346 kilograms.

Silvestre said the shipment was supposed to be released today if it had passed random inspection.

The packing list of the shipment included apparel, books, kitchen utensils, plates, spoons and forks, books, a home theater system, appliances, home furnishings and furniture, among others.

But when Anita Cano and Jeffrey Cano, consignee, appealed against the Cebu Customs Enforcement and Security Service (CESS), conducted the random inspection, they found the ammunition and gun parts.

Once the BOC has completed the examination of the shipment, Silvestre said the Bureau of Customs would issue a warrant of seizure for the whole shipment, including the household goods, which were used to conceal the rifle components.

He said the bureau would also file charges against the importers.

"It was very obvious that it is a prohibited importation," Silvestre said, adding that the investigation would be completed in a month.

He said importers of guns or gun parts have to present permits from the Firearms and Explosives Office of the Philippine National Police or bring in firearms or components.

Black sand quarrying in Lingayen village draws protests

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The hauling of hundreds of tons of black sand from a village on the coast of Lingayen Gulf, that coincided with a provincial government project in Gulf, a golf course in the area, came under protest from villagers who demanded a stop to the sand excavation.

Nonnie Oliquino, member of the council of Barangay Sabangan, said villagers were surprised at the large-scale extraction of sand that started in June.

"We did not know what was happening. Nobody informed us," said Oliquino.

The residents knew that excavating sand would destroy their environment so they started seeking authorities, hoping to stop it.

In a petition written in Pilipino, they opposed black sand quarrying because they feared that seawater would seep into agricultural lands when sand from the beach is removed. They also feared flooding.

MGB order ignored

Four months after sand quarrying here started, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) issued a memorandum recommending the cancellation of the small-scale mining permit issued to Alexandrite Mining and Oil Resources (Amor).

The MGB investigation team said the provincial government issued Amor a small-scale mining permit even without clearance from the agency.

The recommendation, addressed to MGB Regional Director Carlos Tayag, also ordered Amor to cease and desist from further removing sand. Oliquino, the residents' spokesperson, said the recommendation has yet to be implemented.

Jaime Bulaos, environment and natural resources committee chair of the Sabangan village council, said when the MGB issued the recommendation, the company transferred its equipment to the neighboring village of Pasaway, "but they continue to quarry at night in Sabangan."

Provincial permit

"There are armed security guards [ensuring the area] so we cannot do anything," Pulaos said.

The permit, signed by Provincial Administrator Rafael Baraan, was issued on June 29 for the extraction of 30,000 metric tons of magnetite sand yearly for two years. The firm is eligible to apply for renewal for another two years.

Gov. Amado Espino Jr. said the residents' fears are "baseless and unfounded, [but] unfortunate."

He said Amor volunteered to remove unnecessary materials in a proposed golf course that would be built in accommodation zone in the village.

But Espino, in a letter to Tayag, said the provincial government was "one with our desire to their concern for the environment [and] won't allow anyone to destroy and abuse the province's environment and natural resources."

EARTH-MOVING equipment dig up magnetite sand in what are supposed to be small-scale operations in Lingayen, Pangasinan. STORY ABOVE

The signing of magnetite sand also drew protests in Gayaysay, with the highest ranking Church leader there calling the people power to put a stop to quarrying in the province's shores that has a small-scale mining permit.

Baby abandoned in bus turned over to DSWD

DUE CITY—A week-old infant was abandoned by a mother determined to be in her teens in a bus bound for this city.

A passenger, Arlene Ortega, said authorities she was seated beside the young woman who was heard feeding her baby in the bus. Ortega was quoted as saying the young woman asked her to look after the baby and left her seat as the bus stopped in Brgy City.

The still unidentified woman didn't return, leaving Ortega to take the baby and turn it over to Puerta de Cebu, a Church-owned establishment in Buenavista, Nifio here.

Village executive Pancho Renieva turned the baby over to Cebu City Medical Center it was turned over later to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. *Jhanson Nepal, Inquirer Visayas*

BFAR to use armed vessels to enforce sardine fish ban

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Fishing regulators will use three armed vessels to enforce a 15-month ban on sardine fishing in 15 areas in Western Mindanao, a top fisheries official said.

Asis Perez, national director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), said the vessels would ply a 4,874 nautical-mile area considered sardine-fishing ground to enforce the ban.

The vessels, Perez said, would be manned by Coast Guard personnel. The largest of the three vessels, he said, would serve as command post.

Violators of the ban face jail terms of six months or six years and fines of up to P6,000. They also face losing boat and fishing licenses. Illegal catch would be seized.

A research vessel, according to Perez, was pulled out from Tawi-Tawi and brought here.

The ban starts in December. It was initially set to start this month but BFAR heeded a plea made by fishing industry leaders to delay its enforcement to allow fishermen and fishery workers to adjust.

Fishing industry officials estimated at least 50,000 people will lose their jobs as a result of the sardine ban.

BFAR stood to ground, however, saying the ban was aimed at saving a dwindling population of sardines.

George Ardiente, head of the Federated Group of Zamboanga Inc., said his group approves BFAR's decision to protect the fishing grounds but hasn't been contacted yet that sardine population was dwindling in the region.

BFAR, Ardiente said, hasn't presented scientific studies to support the ban.

ONE of three vessels that BFAR will use to enforce the sardine-fishing ban in Western Mindanao. DANILO ROMANTINO/INQUIRER

BFAR head Perez, however, said the research vessel that BFAR was bringing from Tawi-Tawi would support all concerns on the sardine ban.

"We don't decide just because we want to," said Perez. "We base it on science. There are species that are already on the brink of depletion."

He said BFAR vessels would gather samples and base on "to show to people which areas are in need of protection and areas where certain species of sardines [are]."

BFAR research would be conducted in 15 fishing areas in Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Leonard Co friends, kin: Impunity continues

By Marlon Ramos

PAMPLona and friends of murdered botanist Leonard Co have lambasted the Aquino administration for its failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime.

Marking the first anniversary of the killing, members of the Justice for Leonard Co Movement staged a protest rally in front of the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Tuesday and called on Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to order the immediate resolution of the murder complaints filed against members of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion.

Dr. Giovanni Tapang, the group's convener, handed the purported inaction of President Aquino to put an end to rampant political killings which, he said, only "perpetuates the culture of impunity that has reigned in the country."

"Despite his promise of 'tuwid na daan,' President Aquino has failed to change how the previous administrations acted on cases of extrajudicial killings involving soldiers," Tapang said.

Tapang claimed the evidence gathered by a fact-finding team composed of scientists and human rights advocates were enough to file a multiple murder case against the soldiers accused of killing Co and two of his guides.

On the anniversary of his death, officials and employees of the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) were supposed to hold a Mass for the slain botanist who was a consultant of EDC at the time of his killing on Nov. 15 last year.

Co and two of his companions, forest guard Antonio Cornel and tribal Bertonen, a members of the Tongonan Farmers' Association, were killed in a barrage of gunfire by the EDC security lifeguard while they were conducting a survey in the forest for an EDC reforestation program.

Sheryl Cortes, daughter of Cornel who works as watershed technician for the EDC, said the company sponsored the Mass held at the EDC security lifeguard while they were conducting a survey in the forest for an EDC reforestation program.

Sheryl Cortes, daughter of Cornel who works as watershed technician for the EDC, said the company sponsored the Mass held at the EDC security lifeguard while they were conducting a survey in the forest for an EDC reforestation program.

EDC has been spending for the education of Jocelyn Bertonen, the eldest daughter of the other victim Julius, and her school-age siblings starting from this year. Jocelyn is taking up Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences at Visayas State University.

Asked if the family has moved on a year after her father's death, Sheryl said they have not fully recovered.

Sheryl said the family has not filed a case against the military because they did not have the money needed to pursue the case.

The forms of the Cortes family was to find ways to sustain the education of their 17-year-old youngest brother, Jeric, a student of ITI College.

EDC manager Manuel Paolo said the EDC has invited the Bertonens family to attend the Mass. With a report from Elvie Bernas-Ino, Inquirer Visayas

SLAIN botanist Leonard Co spent his college years compiling a directory of indigenous plants which developed into his book, "Common Medicinal Plants of the Cordillera Region." EVERT A. MEHL/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Co's book of nature's medicines relaunched

BAGUIO CITY—Slain botanist Leonard Co spent years building up a directory of indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, which he distributed at little cost to Cordillera communities to help augment health care in remote areas.

Co's friends and former classmates at the University of the Philippines Baguio relaunched a new edition of this directory, which ends up his 1984 book on medicinal plants, on Wednesday. The event was held on the first anniversary of his death.

Co was conducting a local-history project commissioned by the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) in Leyte when he and two of his companions were shot dead. The military claimed he was caught in a crossfire when soldiers encountered communist rebels in the area. Co's family said he was a bystander killed by an Army man-making them the New People's Army members.

The book, "Common Medicinal Plants of the Cordillera Region," lists down 130 indigenous Cordillera plants and provides recipes for their use in medicinal remedies.

Ferns, wild plants

For example, Co suggests that a bowl of acute bacillary dysentery requires a drink of boiled juice from the forest-kapot (Piper sp.) shrub, a fern that grows in Bagabag, Mt. Province.

Each entry has illustrations of indigenous plants to help Cordillera villagers distinguish medicinal herbs from wild plants, as well as descriptions of the plant's origins.

A section of the book provides guidelines for preparing and storing medicinal plants. Another section breaks down the clinical research undertaken to test the efficacy of these plants.

The book has been useful to the Community Health Education, Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (Chescore), where Co worked during his field research in the Cordillera.

Co also helped establish UP Baguio's herbarium, said botany professor Theodora Bolongaro, one of his classmates.

Co was studying to UP Baguio values he started compiling notes on indigenous plants in between classes, said management professor Wilinda Cantre-Pelagio.

Tolentino, a Claretian board director, said Co's book was popularized at the same time the government was advocating Republic Act No. 6675 (Generics Act of 1988).

Co's legacy

One of Co's primary ambitions was to revive sections of forests that were denuded by farms or by urban settlements because medicinal plants grow in these areas, said biology professor Celia Asuncion.

Asuncion said Co left a note with another friend, which said: "If I die, to the course of my work, my only request is for a forum to be held in my name to honor the work I do to conserve Philippine forests."

Heeding this wish, Asuncio began the year-mourning by forming the Leonard Co's memorial theatrics almost forest coordinators, a reforestation of seedlings that is separated by human habitation but which could still be revived and sustained to serve communities.

Unlike a forest is depleted to a retreat point where its roots, animal and plant life can no longer replenish naturally, cutting trees alone will not destroy the forest habitat, Asuncio said.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Narcs destroy ₱398M in drugs, medicines seized since '04

By Marisa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Antinarcotics officials destroyed some P398 million worth of illegal drugs and expired medicines that had been kept as pieces of evidence since 2004.

Evangelina Almonte, information officer of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), said the drugs and medicines were burned in an incinerator of a waste management facility in Trece Martires City, Cavite, on Tuesday.

The drugs and medicines were seized by PDEA, Bureau of Customs and Philippine National Police in separate operations since 2004 and had been kept in places of evidence until court orders were issued to destroy them.

Among the destroyed drugs were 26 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth P16.6 million, 50 kg of ephedrine worth P60 million and codeine worth P2 million. The rest were Ketamy Valium, expired medicine tablets, marijuana and opium poppy seeds.

According to Almonte, PDEA also destroyed P467 million worth of family opium poppy seeds last July.

PDEA last year launched a campaign against opium poppy seeds, which are commonly used as baking ingredients but which could also be used to manufacture illegal drugs.

Jose Gutierrez Jr., PDEA director general, said the destruction of the drugs and medicines was "one concrete way of allaying public apprehension that dangerous drugs ... are being reused, recycled or sold back in the streets."

Marcoses say they won't apologize for martial law

BAGUIO CITY—The Marcos family "ruled out at a government level" any apology for the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) website that said Boots Sons Gen Ester Marcos was open to apologizing to martial law victims.

A PIA official on Tuesday said a government contractual employee, the agency's website manager and the PIA regional office in the Ilocos are under investigation for posting the report that said Marcos was "also open [to issuing a] public apology to martial law victims."

Marcos insisted that their family in fact, and has always been open, in saying sorry to those people who believed they were victimized during [the] father's regime," the PIA report said.

Jon Jervis Gadia, Marcos spokesperson, made several calls to the Inquirer to deny that the government issued those statements.

"She was never asked nor had she volunteered to discuss claims made by the martial law victims. She would not discuss an apology because she would have been an admission that the cases [attributed to her father took place]. The governor has asked us to investigate how this was released. It must stop," Gadia said.

He said the governor met her staff on Monday night to discuss the report, titled "Marcoses live in hero's burial," which was lifted and published by an Ilocos Norte weekly on Nov. 6.

Gadia said their investigation found the report to a contractual PIA employee, who claimed to have lifted the statements from a local television broadcast. He quoted supervisors of the station as saying it did not broadcast such a report.

The PIA source said PIA Director General Jose Pabia is aware of the mistake and has taken steps to correct the website account. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Group's take on disabled: Not welfare case

DEAF-mute and hard-of-hearing children express their views through hand signals and body movements. TERESA V. MACARAYA/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO (L...
For Trevin Gomez and some Claire Magnes partnerships and partnering are lonely words.

In 20 years, the sisters realized their translating words in to action could produce a wide network of groups and individuals that care for children and young people with disabilities.

"It's about 'tayo' (us), not 'kami' (we)," Gomez said of the group that has guided the work of the Inocencio Magtoto Memorial Foundation Inc. (IMMFI). The challenges of the sisters are so many that one or two groups or a few people cannot do it alone, said Gomez. IMMFI programs on Page 2

"The Magtoto siblings have transformed the IMMFI from a family institution into a community organization. Representatives of various sectors in Pampanga now dominate its board.

It still lives out the ideals of the late Inocencio Magtoto who, because of his being born in a farmer's family, helped the poor in spirit, underserving ways.

The IMMFI has mapped out its direction for the next five years. "Satisfying this ... the added is a development agenda, meaning they're being helped because then there is their right and their progress can come from economic and social building," Gomez said.

What have been the results of past partnerships and partnering? The board, in a report, and the IMMFI has put disability as a mainstream issue in the community.

For instance, the advocacy has prompted local governments to implement programs for people with disabilities.

The first public high school for the deaf in Central Luzon, which is based in Dampalit High School (PHS) here, is a product of the cooperation of Quest International Foundation Inc. Assistance Center for the Education of the Deaf, the IMMFI and the Department of Education under then-Pampanga schools superintendent Elsa Flor Lituañ.

PHS adopted the program when new principal Lilia Cruz, the PHS Special Education Class for the Hearing Impaired.

In school year 2011-2012, the number of students rose to 42 from only 19 in 1995. Some of them have joined Bebeadays and Livelihood Education classes for students with no disabilities.

They study cosmetology, information and communication technology applications, culinary arts and automotive, according to Lyn Paguntos, program coordinator.

The class for those blind students began this year, with Kaye Bagting, who is also blind, as their teacher.

At least 25 deaf students are being trained to be teachers to fellow deaf as companion friends or new Central Luzon. Tessette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

The first public high

CHR: Rights cases highest in West Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—More cases of rights violations are to be seen where the government's watch on report is focused, according to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

In a report presented last week, CHR said cases of torture and enforced disappearances continue to pile up even under the administration of President Aquino, which is trying to project itself as no antithesis of the Arroyo administration.

In its report, CHR said the number of cases of rights violations involving soldiers and policemen is highest in Western Mindanao and other areas in Mindanao where the government's writ or power is focused.

The report was presented in a training session for authorities on laws against torture and protecting human rights here last week.

CHR said from July 2010 to July 2011, at least 18 cases of torture have been recorded in Mindanao.

Eight people also disappeared while 64 others were summarily executed, said the report entitled "Recent Trends from 2010-2011" and presented by Christopher Louis Ocampo, an official of CHR.

"Western Mindanao has the highest number of torture cases with nine cases followed by Region 12 (Soccsargen) with three and Caraga with three. In the case of enforced disappearances, Western Mindanao is still on top with four cases," Ocampo said.

Human Rights Commissioner Jose Manuel Mamauag said active reporting by "human stakeholders" led to the discovery of the cases.

Mamauag said increased awareness about human rights issues was a positive sign though it was saddening that cases of torture, disappearances and summary executions continue to happen.

Another bad news, he said, was that some of the cases filed against identified perpetrators had prospered so far.

Brenner Simon, a CHR director, said there are sufficient laws against human rights violation but these are not being enforced. One of the reasons, he said, was the lack of witnesses.

Aella Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Julie Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

11-11-11 also a day for reforestation

Volunteers plant trees in Sorsogon, Quezon

By Joan Escandor Jr.
Sorsogon City

EVEN THE DENR-TMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) considered Nov. 11, 2011, an auspicious date to embark on all things major, including a tree planting activity in Sorsogon.

On that day, the agency planted 111,111 seedlings simultaneously in nine towns of the second district, with the participation of about 1,500 volunteers mobilized by Rep. Evelina Escudero.

Arnaldolfo Barquilla, public information officer of the DENR in the province, said the greening program included planting mangrove propagules in Pilar, Donsol and Barcelona, and 111,111 seedlings in the upland areas of Bulusan, Irosin, Matnog, Sta. Magdalena, Bulan and Juban.

Both the Bulusan Volcano National Park and the Palm Dian Mangrove Forest, which have been honored the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Award and the Best Coastal Management Program, are found in the second district, whose climate is characterized as having a short dry season from April to August and a pronounced maximum rainfall from November to January.

In a statement, Rene Castañeda, acting provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the seedlings of forest, **fruit-bearing and mangrove trees** were planted in the denuded areas of the nine municipalities. The activity would continue until at least 305 hectares of land have been covered, Barquilla said.

According to DENR records, **Sorsogon's forest cover is** 16,403 ha or only 7.48 percent of its total land size of 214,344 ha.

Emma Rodriguez, acting community environment and natural resources officer in the district, said the project was initiated by Romeo to promote environmental awareness in the upland communities and encourage private-public partnership.

MANGROVE propagules are planted along the shoreline of Poblacion Central, Barcelona, Sorsogon. PHILIP ALMENDRAL

Citing the role of forests as a sink, crop and storage of carbon dioxide, Romeo said he had asked the local government units, DENR and the people of Sorsogon to cooperate in sending a strong message that protecting the environment is a universal responsibility.

The tree planting initiative was in line with the Aquino administration's target to plant 1.5 billion trees by 2016.

A similar activity was undertaken on Saturday in the coastal villages of Tiyolan Sur in Quezon.

Zenaida Bernal, coordinator of the Tinggal Kalikasan Foundation in Tagalog, said more than 200 volunteers joined the launching of a mangrove protection project undertaken by her group, the local government of Sariaya, and Rep. Irvin Alcala.

Before the start of the activity, Ernesto Antonio Jr., Sariaya municipal agriculturist, demonstrated the proper way of planting the propagules to ensure their growth.

Some 6,000 propagules were planted in the coastline of Barangay Candelas, which was chosen as a pilot site in October for its capacity to sustain a high growth rate. PHILIP ALMENDRAL

118,890 trees in one day

By Fercan Ginsan
Visc, Camotes

THOUSANDS of volunteers and organizations again made reforestation history on Friday, planting 118,890 tree seedlings in Camotes Islands in one day, according to organizers of Project 11-11-11.

The number broke the 84,000 planted by 7,000 people in Camotes last year on February 23 under the 81 Seeds movement of Gov. Lilia Villaluerne, who got the idea from Camotenians Ray Cesar Sacramento. The lawmaker used the unique dates of Jan. 11, 2011, and Nov. 11, 2011, to launch the simultaneous tree planting as part of his environmental projects for Camotenians.

The 1-11-11 activity resulted in the planting of 33,294 trees.

Unlike the 81 Seeds activity, Project 11-11-11 did not intend to seek recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records as setting records was not the motivation of participants, the District office said.

Barangay-based schools and **tree planting sites on Friday.** Earlier that day, he joined Supreme Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez in planting a tree before the crowding of the Lady Justice statue at the Regional Trial Court.

In the capital town of Virac, 5,491 trees were planted in 32 of the 43 barangays. These do not include the 3,000 planted by students of 30 elementary schools and awarded prizes by students in public high schools. Four tertiary institutions chipped in with 3,500 with the bulk coming from Catanduanes State College's.

Records show that 11 municipalities were expected to plant a total of 61,300 trees that day. Gov. Joseph Cua led provincial officials and employees, as well as representatives of cultural agencies in planting 15,240 trees in seven catchment areas and landslide-prone areas.

Various organizations plant of 17,370 trees in mumbrella, mangrove, building forests, riverbanks, coastal mangrove areas and other sites where ecological balance was at risk.

The majority of the seedlings were planted by the Catanduanes Sustainable Ecological Management, Philippine National Oil Co. Philippine National Red Cross, Mountain Care and Hikers Association, Catanduanes Interprovincial Electric Cooperative, Southern Philippines Power Corp., Tiwi Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Sicsumil Power and Electricity Corp. and the water district offices of Virac and Baras planted 2,000 trees in catchment where they get their water, while Land Bank, Smart Communications and the Agricultural and Rural Development for Catanduanes added 1,000 more.

The 2 sub- and landslide-free municipalities of Bato and Viga also joined in the tree-march in the province, the Catanduanes Construction Association also joined in planting 7,000 trees along respective construction sites.

Private individuals also contributed 2,184 trees.

Most of the planting materials were supplied by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Some came from a tree nursery of Virac Mayor Cito Alberto.

Aside from tree planting activities and establishment of community nurseries in barangays, Sacramento expected the benefits from building two parks, both for the economy and the environment of the province. "Our commitment to protect the environment and all other natural resources will never end. In just a single day. Our one big mission will be keeping three hundred thousand of trees fit and manly," he said.

Known as the Isle of the Howling Winds," Catanduanes, one of six provinces in Bicol, is usually in the path of powerful storms in the country that periodically cause landslides and floods. In 1970, the province was hit by the country's strongest recorded hurricane, Supertyphoon "Sening," which packed winds of 315 kilometers per hour.

It suffered heavy casualties and damage from three successive supertyphoons — "Loleng" in 1995, "Reming" in 1998, and "Frening" in 2006.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Pushing the envelope

THE SPECTACLE at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Tuesday night took the impasse between the Aquino administration and the Arroyos to a startling level. Picture it. A temporary restraining order having been issued by the Supreme Court on their motion to the immigration watch list, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Mike, accompanied by their eldest child and assorted aides, arrived in an ambulance that was instantly surrounded by a shoving crowd of reporters and photographers. A wheelchair was produced for the former president, who emerged wearing a neck brace and a surgical mask and who, amid the melee, was wheeled into the airport looking like an emergency patient (and not someone who avowedly intended to attend conferences in Geneva and New York in between seeking medical treatment).

By then, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had ordered airport and immigration officials to stop the former first couple from leaving. That the Arroyos were duly barred and had to turn back, as though *contra mundum*, added to what President Aquino's spokesperson earlier termed, correctly, as "high drama." Still, dramatic or not, the episode that moved the mighty Mike Arroyo to cry cruelty and his wife's spokesperson to claim abuse and degradation showed a crack in the body politic that threatens to develop into a major crisis involving two coequal branches of government.

The usual talking heads have been calling down fire and brimstone on De Lima's feisty head. But it does not help that the Supreme Court, or at least its current configurations, hardly carries the weight of unassailability. It is this less than solid reputation that leads the attentive observer to conclude that the 8-5 vote that produced the TRO namely opened the window of pushing the high court with one's appearances—for that foreseeable future where one is forced to call in favors. Indeed, Mike Arroyo is said to have had the inside track on how the vote would go, and had purportedly told reporters that he and his wife would take the first plane out once the decision was issued. And what were those multiple bookings for the couple's passage in various airlines but affirmations that the decision was officially made known to the Arroyos even before anyone thought of informing the justice department? (We're not even beginning to talk about the dulled bag containing the required P2-million cash hand that made its appearance at the high court as early as 4 p.m., or only some three hours after news on the TRO broke.)

It likewise does not help that Gloria Arroyo, who, until plunder and electoral sabotage complaints were filed against her, was soon holding extremely well—thanks, the woman herself said on TV, to diet, exercise and simple cosmetic procedures. To be sure, she has had three operations in connection with her ailments, and one of her lawyers, the redoubtable Estelito Mendoza, has distributed for public consumption photographs of her wearing what seemed like a prelatial cash brace and presenting a teary sight to the world. But the true state of her health remains questionable, courtesy of her own circle. Is it a bone ailment? A mineral disorder? Now her camp is saying that she has a glandular disease.) Her legal spokesperson, Rizal Lozada, once warned of the possibility of her being paralyzed—a line that her doctors subsequently discounted. An ally once described her as having "shrunk" because of her condition, but her own half-sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, later said the ex-president looked well during a visit that had them chatting lunch and praying together.

The overweening issue is credibility, or lack thereof, and it's no bad that the Supreme Court has come up squarely against it in issuing the TRO favoring the Arroyos. A functioning government requires an unassailable adviser. Certain legal eagles contend that the high court's action should have stopped De Lima from keeping the couple on the watch list. But the justice secretary herself no slouch in law, appears keen on pushing the envelope to outlier to assess the justice department's power to prosecute crime.

The dissenters from the majority decision seemed to hear oral arguments before ruling a decision. The high court has actually set Nov. 22 for that purpose. Questions that arise: Was a week too long a wait? Why make a legitimate decision where a political one was what was clearly needed?

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How serious is GMA's medical condition?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

HOW SERIOUS is former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's medical condition? What are its major indicators? What is the typical outlook for cases like hers? These questions are best answered by medical specialists. Though the answers may not be crucial to the legal issues submitted to the Supreme Court for resolution, they are relevant to the political questions now confronting P-Noy and his Cabinet.

The political issue is this: Is the right balance between the government's quest to make Arroyo legally accountable for her past actions, and her constitutional rights and medical needs as a citizen? If the P-Noy administration misunderstands its role in handling of this issue, there will be costs to pay, both legal and political. The ultimate political cost would be impeachment. But the costs may also come in the form of diminished credibility and public trust.

The political gains, however, are no less important. P-Noy was elected president on the promise that his government will be steadfast in making all the big crooks who abused their powers and privileges pay for their crimes. If he succeeds in putting Arroyo on trial in a fair and transparent way, it will be a big step in the program to root out corruption in our country. If Mr. Aquino fails in this effort, his campaign to put government on a straight path will be derailed even before it has taken off. The stakes are high; the President cannot be unmindful of the risks he has taken.

The legal and constitutional issues are complex enough. The key question appears to be: Has Supreme Court Associate Justice Teresita De Leon Leonardo-De Castro, writing for the majority, failed to apply correctly the provisions of Rule 102 of the Rules of Court governing the issuance and implementation of Hold Departure Orders, Watchlist Orders, and Allow Departure Orders? Among other things, it gives to the secretary of justice the power to issue HDOs and WDOs against persons involved in pending criminal cases even when they are still under preliminary investigation. Prior to this, only judges were empowered to issue HDOs. By putting out this decision, the DOJ—during Arroyo's presidency—dimmed the right to stop the departure of individuals in order to "prevent any miscarriage of justice, without, however, sacrificing the individual's right to travel."

Many Filipinos and foreigners have been prevented from leaving the country on the strength of this circular. No one questioned its constitutionality—until now. It is no small irony that the one who is questioning it to none other than the former president herself during whose term it was conceived and endorsed. If this does not speak volumes about the perceived class/ attitude toward the law, we don't know what does.

Is the DOJ circular a constitutional abridgment of the right to travel? This is yet to be resolved, but in issuing a TRO allowing Arroyo to leave, the SC majority signals where it is likely to go. The question will not make it necessary to inquire into Arroyo's medical conditions. The judgment of her very feared status-in-difference from the legal standpoint.

But the question of her actual medical status is of paramount importance to political outcomes. Political interests are very much in contention here. Arroyo's camp desires her condition to remain deliberately fogged in order to get attention of the best specialists she can find abroad. For barring her departure, the Aquino government is portrayed as heartless and tyrannical, thus putting two questions in order: Is the issue in this matter her health or her political future? Is she being persecuted for her political views?

Only her doctors can answer the first question. But the second question is already being answered by the public. Many Filipinos have come to the conclusion that the Arroyo administration has been guilty of many abuses, and that she richly deserves to be prosecuted for her misdeeds. Many others, however, are convinced that the charges against her are politically motivated, and that she is being persecuted for her political views. Once they leave and decide not to return to face the cases against them, the Arroyos may make our appeal for political asylum in a friendly country on the ground of persecution and inhumane treatment by their own government.

That is why the question of GMA's real medical condition is vital. The pictures released by her doctors showing her in bed wearing an elaborate contraption to prevent the compression and dislocation of her spinal column suggests an extremely fragile state that could be aggravated by the slightest movement or touch. But, if that is the case, why is her family taking the great risk of transporting her to another country? If there are really no comparable specialists in the Philippines who could diagnose and treat her condition, would it not be better, at least for now, to bring in the foreign doctors than to fly her halfway across the globe? Is she really in a bad shape, or is she just lying again?

Indeed, it is none of our business where they want to seek treatment. But the Arroyos must be told that they cannot draw public sympathy or make political capital out of anybody's health: medical science proceeds by asking how serious she really is. Outside of her doctors at St. Luke's Hospital, hardly any Filipino doctor or medical scientist has weighed in on the medical question. It is likely that professional ethical considerations are deterring them. But it is important that they be asked and heard.

The questions in the public mind are pretty simple. Apart from the legal and political problems facing her, what major medical problems are bugging the former president? Have outside experts been let at this point, given what we've seen and heard in media? Have those physicians and surgeons in our country who can competently diagnose and treat these problems?

public.love@gmail.com

Senile

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OVER THE last few weeks, a series of videos have appeared on YouTube advertising itself as facts about Marcos and Aquino they didn't want you to know. The disclaimer that accompanies it says the videos are not meant to be Marcos propaganda, they are meant only to establish the truths of history.

But of course they're meant to be Marcos propaganda. Specifically, they're meant to sow doubts about the essential truths of history, thereby allowing a rewriting of it. Thereby allowing Marcos to be lionized in Lilliputian regimes abroad. Thereby turning him into the most maligned hero on the face of this earth.

The one I saw had several propositions. One was that Ninoy Aquino and Ferdinand Marcos were the best of friends and it was Ferdinand rather than Ninoy who got the short end of the bargain. Ferdinand never stopped Ninoy from getting medical treatment abroad, as evidence a show of magnanimity as you can get. Ninoy turned out to be resentful for the simple reason that Marcos never had any intention of doubling blood. He turned down orders to the soldiers not to fire on the protesters.

Cory never hid that revelation, she was in Cebu all the time. And life did not get better afterward, it got worse. Rice and oil were scarce to astronomical highs during Marcos' time—they are scarce, Cory's. And poverty more far more democratic during Marcos' time, the poor at least got a better deal. The democracy Cory restored was merely the democracy of the oligarchs and their sweet allies, the communists.

I understand there are several more videos along these lines, variations on the theme. The method is not unlike the one Barack Obama employed to get to the White House three years ago, intensive use of the social media to get a message across. The obvious limitation of it in this country is that we do not have an extensive online culture, the traditional media, particularly free TV, still define what's called the "public discourse." Or they still have the most powerful impact on the public mind. But the videos are clearly aiming for the young middle class urban dwellers who are computer savvy in hopes of getting them if not to head the charge in the rewriting of history at least to be the least resistant to it.

The video I saw is a classic in exploiting half-truths. Or specifically to how to swing a different spin from told facts.

The proposition that Marcos and Ferdinand were friends is just plain false. Of course they knew each other; they were public icons of the old school. But Ninoy nurtured politically in adversity, Ferdinand estrangement, or became enemy (primitive), in prosperity. What choice did Marcos have but to allow Ninoy to seek medical treatment abroad? He needed international American blessings for martial law, which he wasn't getting with the Carter administration. Indeed, he was getting a pummeling with that administration, which was big on human rights. It was only later that he would get back into the good graces of America with the Reagan era.

Of course Marcos eventually ordered his men to stand down. What choice did he have *mo*? Bad Luzon put it to him in terms that left no room for doubt: "Cat, and out already." Marcos was sure, he could not count on American support to prop it up. If he made a mess of things, he could not count on Americans anymore. If he left a carnage in his wake, he could not count on an American rescue. It was not generosity that made Marcos hold back, it was calculation. If he had blown the instincts to bits, if he had shut down the members, he would have lost anyway—the media were deeply worried about the other revolutions. The one taking place in the countryside—and nothing could have saved him and his family from suffering the fate of Mussolini.

Of course Cory went to Cebu. Her followers had brought her there for her protection after the snap elections. That did not mean she did not lead it, or again if not in the flesh. The people did not rum out for Juan Ponce Enrile, Fidel Ramos and Jaime Ongpin. They did so for Cory. That was the reason none of the three managed to head the government afterward notwithstanding that they went to again and again. Cory led Edsa even without physically being there to warn that reconciled Enrilestein's patsying of Labores breaking the Bangis.

Of course life seemed much better at least during the 1987s and early 1990s. That is only the most deceptive thing of all. That was paid for by the billions upon billions Marcos borrowed, which not paid for with our futures and sons, the bulk of which Marcos and his cronies stole anyways. That was the one thing that guaranteed the fifties barrow afterward. It began to unravel toward the last few years of Marcos' rule, which compelled him to rely on the "Bismarck Central Bank." That was what gnomes had called dummy dollar deposits of our countries from being one of the brightest to the one of the terrified-est countries of the world.

Of course the democracy that Cory brought back was the flawed democracy of pre-martial law years. But the difference between that and martial law is the difference between heaven and hell.

"Can this be true?" a young man asked me after he watched the video. The fact that that question can be asked is enough to ring alarm bells in my head. The difference between 1986 and 2011, which is how long Edsa has been, is the difference between 1940 and 1965, the difference between the World War II and the Ilocos. Martial law is once longer enough to try the memory of this memory-challenged country. It is a challenge to—no, a demand upon—the older generation, the ones who held the barricades, to remind the young of the journey to divulge the past and know a continuity tale to their sons.

Smiling whether in a person or in a country is the noblest thing to behold.

A vindictive President's desperate plot

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

SIMON ALVAREZ would have pursued his business with no vindictive ex-President Aquino throwing all manner of tantrums, justice and decency to the garbage bin just to put Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in jail, just as she detained me in 1972 to incarcerate him.

Professional Marcos had more decency and at least the sensibility that Imelda is loved to the limited Marcos fan clientele before surgery, she only a routine operation at that same hour. Now it is President Aquino who is the one trampling on the constitutional right of a person to travel to seek medical care, and even defied the Supreme Court directive ordering it not to do so.

There is a decisive reason to Mr. Aquino's and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's confidence in opposing even the highest court of the land. De Lima is crying when she knows that she is not doing her duty, since Arroyo has to face plunder charges against her. She and Aquino know that those plunder charges wouldn't survive the trial court, and Arroyo would be foolish to go on exile because of those flimsy accusations. They have therefore changed their strategies.

Mr. Aquino himself unwittingly revealed this new tactic: desperate and shameless one—when he said after being asked why he was barring Arroyo from traveling: "There's no allegation that there was this crime, and there were certain things that happened there, and I think it was presented of the committee to explain all of these things."

The President was referring to the duties of one Bong Bong, the right hand man of Ayala Inquisitor-in-chief, who occupied in the Magnificent Seven Committee that "investigated" the Hacienda Luisita scandal of distributing shares to dead farmers, after extensive exhibitionism to cheat for his senatorial slate to win in the 2007 elections.

Despite the ridiculousness of that claim, the Supreme Court should have ordered it to make up the only lady that could put Arroyo in jail, since that committee, if compelled for truth by a court, is non-justiciable. Mr. Aquino's operatives have just repeatedly mocked to contempt their charge, which they hope would have put her in prison before the Supreme Court issued its temporary restraining order.

That boy in jail, Ateneo[1] has been Mr. Aquino's mentor, having entrusted his officemate since he assumed power 15 months ago. If this lady could do it with her predecessor, he could definitely also do it with his patron, so could he vote well do so. Mr. Aquino was said to have told his officials:

"There was what is perhaps enough. In Ateneo's case, there are no credible witnesses like Davao Region, Clarence Dominguez, Willie Ocier, and 54 other witnesses—even Sec. annual, professors in senate—who testified against Estrada. There not one book, [email, newspapers admitting to, even recorded bank checks, among the 1,500 pieces of documents that proved that Ateneo had received a billion pesos through graft.

In contrast, the support for the plunder charges against Arroyo, aside by the leftist parties Bayan Muna, Akbayan, a pro-applying Bank Director, and by a candidate, could be put in a few words: "Biro to the senate investigations."

But these turned out to be full of sound and fury, which signifying nothing. Sadly, this is what the inquisition-in-medical names for electoral purposes, but professed loudly my evidence that can stand up in court.

Something in August though, Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes, Mr. Aquino's ex-wife by the late Rolando Re-A's election lawyer, thought he let upon a brilliant idea. Mr. Aquino appointed Brillantes to Amnesty but after over months, Congress refused to confirm his appointment. The chief of the Comelec's legal department accused him of corruption while his, alias Bete Guerrero

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was entering his confirmation. Mr. Aquino didn't seek to wield to spend his political capital to order Congress to confirm his appointee.

Brillantes made his move. He only whispered to Mr. Aquino's ears that there was a nearly foolproof method to win the elections in the election, like 66-91 of 2007. That provision defined a new offense called "electoral sabotage" which carried a penalty of life imprisonment. Under the Penal Code, that made it even bailable charge.

Brillantes' brilliant idea: Arroyo could be accused by somebody who could be made to do so—to save his own skin—so having ordered something during the 2007 elections. She then would have to round trial for "electoral sabotage."

To make the scheme appear to be non-partisan and credible, he and De Lima created in August a body called "Joint DOJ-Comelec Preliminary Investigation Committee and Fact-Finding Team on the 2004 and 2007 National Elections Electoral Fraud and Irregularities Cases" to investigate Esac claims. A government canine that is, but it's actually a task force that even violates the Comelec rules's injunction for an independent Comelec, just to put Arroyo, by hook or by crook, and to do so before the Supreme Court ruled the latest hurt on her unconstitutional. Since the charge is non-bailable, she would be imprisoned.

That's intended not only to humiliate and vanquish her. With details of her life threatening illness and her family's wish to see her, the plunder charges going nowhere, the plot against her has taken an abominable dimension. The scheme is, by subjecting means necessary to put her in jail, where her health will inevitably and fatally deteriorate. Indeed, her relatives and medical experts point to all and surely is an extermination.

It is a desperate plan to kill the former president.

I hope Brillantes, de Lima, and the 5000 people, investigators realize the kind of contemptible conspiracy they are being ordered to participate in.

Email the author for comments: tiglao.inquirer@gmail.com

Smokey Mountain's rainwater eco-laundromat

ON THE seemingly bleak landscape where thousands of families are mired in poverty, a bright little spot shines.

Smokey Mountain, the internationally known garbage dump that the media, social scientists, activists, environmental advocates, politicians and religious groups had so often invited, is no more. But the name, the symbol, the actual spot remains. But change has many times over. Once synonymous the shocking poverty and amazing resilience of those who carved their living through scavenging there had hoped that Smokey Mountain, this shameful symbol of Philippine misery, would vanish. *It* and it unrecognizably into something else.

Still, it did, thanks to the efforts of many concerned people, individuals and the government. Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila, is now a thriving community of 30,000 people. Its residents are no longer ashamed to say where they live. The area of the dump is now a park with trees, about the lives of the people who once lived on garbage could fill books. (There is a collaborative book.) Where once there was a dump whose stench could be smelled miles away, there now are two-to-three-story concrete homes. Buildings that house more than 2,000 families.

But the place is far from pleasant because poverty is still the lot of those who live there. Many of the residents are from Leyte province, and now in a more organized, ecologically friendly way. Now in place is a manmade recovery facility (MRF) where useful garbage (collected from households, homes, stores) are deposited, classified and segregated.

Last week I was in what used to be the Smokey Mountain dump. The last time I was on Smokey Mountain was when it was still a garbage mountain. Many "alternative" activities had been done there in the past. Among the most memorable was a 1986 Christmas Eve mass I remember putting a Holy Week Stations of the Cross there, organized by a militant church group interested among the urban poor. At the end of the para-liturgy, Jesus Christ's corpse was finally deposited on top of the dump. That gave it a feel of Calvary (an deadly heavy).

Today there is still a small portion of the mound that remains undeveloped, but it is covered

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Gonzalez Duyo

with grass, shrubs and some trees. The sad thing is that poor families are starting to set up homes there. They're still a far distance to be developed and protected. I was told, like plants of wood that can be turned into charcoal. In fact, many are now in charcoal production, a very unhealthy and environmentally damaging endeavor that needs to be checked. Young children who help out among them their tender blood lose not looking like cleft dolls covered with soot. I hope to polish them to shrub dolls again.

So what bright spot am I talking about?

Inaugurated and blessed last week was the Smokey Mountain Eco-Laundromat Service Center, Metro Children, director of Sustainable Project Management (SPM), started on—my 1990 is why—a community project to help the poor by providing need and poverty reduction. "The Laundromat is a pilot project of SPM in collaboration with Australian Foundation. What philanthropy advisors and with the full support of the community and private and government agencies. It's two-centralized following central ecological principles.

Have you ever visited a depressed urban community? While traversing the narrow alleys you would notice women squatting in front of their homes. They are washing, washing, washing all day—probably washing over and over with little water in their areas more than five times what we put her's. You can't help thinking, is that all the women do all day long? So backbreaking and time-consuming.

In 2008, SPM conducted a survey among Smokey Mountain residents and found that laundry was one of many more time- and money-consuming activities. Washing could only be done on the first floor of their row-house buildings and this clothes hung to dry along corridors. Laundry day took about P1,200 monthly per family. All that time and the money could be better spent on more productive activities.

And so SPM enlisted the residents in putting up the first pilot laundromat on the ground floor of Building 24. On other Heights, Smokey Mountain. The laundromat will charge about half of what Tondo residents have been used to their laundry and charges than a commercial laundromat.

The true-to-be laundromat is not only cost-effective, it is also environmentally sustainable. Designed by architect Gilbert Baptista, the four-storey has energy-efficient washing machines that will run to the first hours a day. A "green technology" dispenses used eco-friendly materials for washing and cleaning purposes. The laundromat area is collected from the SPM's Rainwater Harvesting Project. The captured water is filtered before it goes to the system underneath the four-storey building. The system is powered by solar panels into electricity.

Another unique feature of the undertaking is the community's major role in it. The residents of the building where the Laundromat is located are organized by a local people's organization that will take responsibility for its operations. The income generated goes to building maintenance and other projects. The rate by Building 24 is just the first of several that SPM and the residents of Smokey Mountain are planning. Asian Center, SPM's industrial-ecology project coordinator, has her hands full.

Soon to rise is the parish church building which, Baptista promises, will be of green social purpose. The ground level is to have vehicle houses for the urban poor. Ms. Gonzalez Duyo's dream project is already there but the church building itself has yet to take shape. I couldn't help remembering the Stations of the Cross and Our Lady to Calvary we did on the site many years ago. How the place is crafted the Parish of the Risen Lord.

* * *

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The West needs a debt brake

COMMENTARY

Klaus J. Zimmermann

AS EUROPE'S economy remains on the brink, the idea of a "debt brake" is one of the most important policy tools to get fiscal policy under control. This debate is not just important for Europe, the United States and Japan, but also for the financial and economic crisis in emerging markets.

The debt brake is a constitutional amendment which aims to take an national constitutions to curb [sic]. The establishment of such a measure would certainly stabilize the long-term expectations of governments' fiscal path in financial markets.

As in many European countries including the United States, a debt brake would also mean enough donation international hurdles against to stop infringing on "hopes" as a core tool of public finance. In the last more optimistic 1970s, when the Western world had a healthy dose of self-confidence in economic models do today, Western governments still had resources hope that they would grow fast enough to offset their rapidly rising levels of debt. Those hopes are gone, quite independent of the current economic turmoil.

So far now the immediate imposition of the debt brake would be neither wise nor desirable, given current economic conditions. But the time is certainly right for agreeing on the launch at a fixed date in the not-too-distant future. In Germany, for example, the debt brake, approved by parliament in 2009, is to take effect in 2016.

The recent EU summit proved that further discussions in this direction for the eurozone members. However, many declarations of intent no longer suffice. The list that politicians and citizens made with each other—that they would be serious about reducing debt—is now so long that it seems to be the absence of any list in rules—has failed. That's why we now need to implement a reliable self-disciplining mechanism.

To be effective, such a debt brake mechanism must meet three tests. First, it must be anchored in countries constitutions, underscoring the fundamental character of the commitment. Second, countries must undertake commitments credibly, as in the case in the eurozone now in the eurozone from Spain and Portugal to Italy. And third, in light of the past failure of effective measures, timing and enforcement (whether the Maastricht criteria in the EU or pacts-rules in the United States), there must be independent watchdog agencies, equipped with penalizing powers in case of non-performance.

But it is not just past practice that makes us in the West accountable for our past actions in running up debt. Our future-oriented self-interest dictates no less. Perhaps the most important reason for a debt brake is the fact that the International Monetary Fund, an institution in the business of producing millions of numbers, is free 446 percent.

That is the expected debt-to-GDP ratio that the G7 countries will reserve at no more by 2050 under present policies, if no economic features in social. Unsurprisingly, we highly [sic] increase levels approaching 100 percent for major G7 economies other than the usual suspects of Japan and Italy, which are both way past that catalyst, some policymakers and policy analysts are still inclined to just wish that number away, believing in a magic healing hypothesis of low interest.

However, as the end-of-446 percent, not even the most fantastical economic and political minds can really be prepared to go on such fantasies as usual. The debt brake is a very useful instrument to achieve the turnaround.

The emerging market countries and their vast populations feel with good reason that they in their time, and that a shadow that had cast them for centuries has been lifted at long last. On most of those countries, the past is clearly stated and with the legacy of colonialism, if the former colonial powers—and today's G7 nations, plus some countries like Spain and Portugal—are don't put their fiscal acts together, there is a very real danger of worse form of colonialism.

That new "colonialism" would see countries itself to the very serious growth but that would be imposed on the developing nations. Their "rise" would take the form of a global economic collapse and a decline in development, unleashed in an unresolved Western debt overhang that may never be repaid or serviced sensibly. Or it may take the form of high inflation, which would have the same effect on emerging market countries, which depend on macroeconomic stability in order to execute their plan to move out from under the shadow of centuries-long underdevelopment.

All a debt brake can ensure is this: First, we need to live within our means and second, we need to understand that the present spending levels were the maximum level of public spending and that our future needs or desires are essentially only be financed by cutting other, already funded projects in the budget or increasing taxes.

Over the past several decades, it was usually emerging market countries that, in serious waves of debt crises, were forced to learn to live within their means, often at the behest of their Western creditors. Now that situation has reversed itself. The result, it is the West that has to take the tough medicine.

Klaus J. Zimmermann is director of the Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, Germany.

Denim shorts

I WANT to wear shorts. I really do, especially the denim ones. But I could only go as far as trying them on inside the department store's fitting room. With every pair of shorts I tried, I knew there was a shot on a blouse inside my closet that would match perfectly. If only I didn't need to look something.

But repairing my legs would be like giving everyone free tickets to a freak show. The red, ruby patches glued to my legs [mask] no almost every day. When I decide to wear shorts or a skirt, I would have to see clothes-toned stockings to look presentable. The awkward inside me, is conducted to an chemistry of wearing nothing but pants, jeans and more pants.

I have a chronic auto-immune dermatologic condition known as psoriasis. The word autoimmune is associated with other serious illnesses like lupus, AIDS and rheumatoid arthritis. What it means is that a disease doesn't have a cure and it can only be managed, not totally suppressed.

I do not hesitate to tell people that I have psoriasis. But I would be lying if I said I am not hiding the condition, and it is not very easy to do. Twice a day I have to apply two topical steroids to every spot on my skin and that takes almost half an hour to finish.

To reduce my condition to strangers and get diagnosed issues would be a big strain on me. The skin gives the first impression and fending one that looks dirty puts me at a big disadvantage. People might question my personal hygiene or they might even realize that I wouldn't pass on the flu and get away unscathed.

They would all be wrong. I take a bath twice a day and I smell of Tender Care talcum powder most of the time. Psoriasis, in and will never be contagious.

Recently, I joined online discussions in groups advocating psoriasis awareness. The most struggle that I have been experiencing is apparently shared by 125 million others people who around the world. The rest of the world's population would need to be educated. They need to know that we are not freaks. They need to know that it is okay to reach out rough skin. They need to know that it is okay to hug us.

Gelen Rimes, a popular country singer, recently revealed that she had been diagnosed with psoriasis after she underwent chemotherapy for breast cancer. Her struggle with hiding not required to help raise awareness of the disease.

Lauren Anne she had psoriasis. She had perfect skin and had been featured on the cover of different magazines, countless even wearing bikinis. I almost thought that a cure had been found, but Lauren Hansen said she started to be uncomfortable in her own skin. Thanks to her online, diet and stress management. But regardless of how she was able to control the manifestations, her coming out gave me the courage to not only accept my condition but also to try and let others accept psoriasis.

In my article I wrote about a year ago, I said I was grateful that while there are still many people who suffer in my skin. There were others whose condition was worse than mine. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I am nothing again for two reasons. One, I would tell those who believe that the only way out is to have their skin scrubbed off. They are prejudiced. Two, I want to tell not only those who also have psoriasis, but everyone who is struggling with something that they are not to throw up and stop hiding because they definitely are not alone.

There are other conditions much worse than psoriasis. Some that can be terminal. Those that cost millions to treat, too. But sometimes stigma can become more painful than a physical cancer or a treatment knee. Physical pain can be managed with drugs and painkillers, but the pain I battle with is often extended to worse and my fear of it keeps coming back every time I show some skin.

People with conditions like psoriasis are waiting for a cure—and not just a medical cure, but the inner healing that comes from not fearing details of disgust and revulsion when we are in public. We are not "lepers with bells on to bind to others". With constant treatment, there are times when they look like little pimples. There are also times when they seem to disappear and I get bared into buying myself a pair of denim shorts. But just as the red scaly patches disappear the first moment, the moment I straighten, they return. I still feel insecure. And I know my insecurity will remain.

But let me tell you this. I have found new courage. It is not courage of the rebellious kind, but it is just enough to get me to proclaim to the world that I have psoriasis.

Until more to wear shorts, I will want to wear them without sweating stockings. But I am still just like you in many ways. I dream, dread, and hope. I am a person. So I'll do I could to making everyone aware of my condition. I'll start by telling everyone aware that I am not ugly. I'll start by trying to make everyone accept my condition. There I will hope that I will have either a cooperation of the Asian Bases but even that will generate enough courage to finally wear a pair of denim shorts.

Psoriasis is not contagious. Okay you can hug me. After all, I smell of Tender Care talcum powder.

Mae Anna Santos, 23, is a BS Nursing graduate of West Visayas State University and is part-time writer-columnist for a regional newspaper. The News Today.

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Reyhan M. Garcia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions. If you can, type your work and send it via e-mail to .

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THEY SAID

Unsettled

"The issue of fiscal autonomy is far from settled, contrary to what spendthrift spokespersons like the Lacsons and [Abigail] Valte say."

—Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez

Voice of the poor

"Mamamasdan kami abante lang the cause of the poor and, if you work on their behalf, sometimes you are bound to step on the toes of those who have other interests."

—Left Liberation, explanation for its thankful motion for foreign bishops' regular dinner at the nuncio's residence in Diliman [source]

Council needs to focus on Mindanao conflict

LETTERS

THE BOSSES in Ramon Avelino's column titled "It failed once," [Inquirer, 10/24/11]

No doubt about it, the Oct. 19 ambush and massacre of our soldiers in Al-Barka, Basilan, was a senseless act of evil. Filipinos, who seem to be paranoid or divided when facing a criminal problem or situation, "Rejection of all-out war climbs anyway" [Inquirer, 10/29/11] were in PEace calls for "All-out justice for 19 dead soldiers," [Inquirer, 10/23/11]

On the other hand, we can now say that the "ultimate sacrifice" made by our slain soldiers has not been made in vain, for we are now compelled to rethink our policies regarding the Mindanao problem. ("Escudero slams Enrile over MILF talk remarks," Inquirer, 10/28/11)

Mr. Ramon Defensor, former governor during the time of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, said, "Having with the cause of a failed war," [Inquirer, 10/30/11] makes sense and should in fact make us sit up and do some serious thinking. For four decades now, the Mindanao problem has been our country's scourge. Once and for all, we should find the appropriate solution to it.

Tato Arnaiz, it is said, is never done one. So, why not create and organize a new Council of Wise persons to use his Press Freedom? The council should have MILF — at least in of the manner, considering that thousands of children have been displaced, and two school disarray.

Ramon only for us, we have new senators who come from the military or the police: Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson and Antonio Trillanes whose experiences, expertise and knowledge could be valuable to a Council of Sages. Also, we have brilliant legal minds in the Senate: Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara, Franklin Drilon and, of course, Santiago. Boby Pimentel who comes from Mindanao and has fresh and commonsensical views on the matter. And we still have former Chief Justice Panganiban, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, whose experience and insights in dealing with the Mindanao problem has certainly to put to use.

We can also invite civil society representatives and the Mindanao religious sector to help formulate clear and unified policies to dealing with the Mindanao problem. Here is short-term and long-term perspective, with priority on short-term policy solutions. The secretaries of justice, national defense and local governments, for short goals, can propose unified policy arsenal to existing law enforcement which should be implemented at once on ground sorts.

It appears to me finding common ere purely composed of representatives from Muslim Mindanao can also be treated in the House of Representatives for some policy recommendations.

Meanwhile, since Human Rights Chair Etta Rosales herself said no her there were apparent violations of the constitution and "Oplan sagot," action that is resolute, solely responsive and effective, we know pork.

—EDMUNDO ESCALANTE, retired judge, Gubat, Sorsogon

Nobody dies for stopping smoking

I WAS a vigorous addict for 20 years, consuming three packs a day. I tried everything to stop smoking—from gradual withdrawal to cutely substitution, but to no avail. I developed smoker's cough and I thought, pretty soon, I would be having hospitalized, after which would be the start of the journey to "Kingdom Come."

And I thought to myself if I had to die, let me die trying to stop smoking. I abruptly stopped smoking without precautions. Cold turkey. After 20 smoke-free years, I am still alive and healthy.

Lesson: All that was needed was just plain determination and plenty of strong will. Nobody died for stopping smoking.

—RODOLFO B. ARPON, General Mariveles, Eastern Samar

Arming for peace

RAGHEDITO TIGLAO's assessment of the invasion of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is very accurate and alarming. ("If you want peace in Mindanao, prepare for war," 10/3/11)

I am one of the ordinary, law-abiding citizens in this country who are disappointed with the present administration. It seems to me and my many others are like the President Aquino have the political will or, maybe, the personal courage to deal with the MILF insurgency. Those in right minds in the government and military should have realized long ago that the MILF is not going to sign a peace pact with the government unless it is allowed to establish an Islamic state in Mindanao.

The MILF cannot imagine a future under a multi-cultural, Western-oriented state like the Philippines. It seems it can only relate to the official religion, and where the Islamic Law reigns supreme.

I have a suspicion that the MILF might agree to a semi-independent region much like the present Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao but with the aim to spread army and regional politics. Pessimism, it will build up to even bigger until it comes to a point where the armed forces of the Philippines will could seize before bringing any regional.

That, as Tigiao stated, there are no right models when it comes to solving a decades-old insurgency like this. But I think Mr. Aquino should take care of the old but proven principle of negotiating with the enemy from a position of strength. The MILF will not expect a peace-loving concept. But it will have to accept the principle that Mr. Aquino is in the APF line up to its wants—"Armed for Peace."

—OLIVER MORALES II, ESTOCOTT, Retired Missionary Baptist Church, Calamba, Negros Occidental, sarra@surac.1991@yahoo.com

Uncomvincing win, but still a win

MANNY PACQUIAO has promised to turned his fights into opportunities for entertainment. For Filipinos, the Pacquiao fights, their preliminaries and main offering pay-per-view, while their families took trips some excitement for the wonderful news that Manny has won. Others listen to the live broadcasts on radio, like urban old, or Filipinos need to see before television came about. Even the incidence of crime in the whole country falls when Pacquiao fights. And most families spend the day together watching the fight on live TV.

Last Sunday, Manny was again over Juan Manuel Marquez. Two of the three judges scored the fight for the person has personal long, and the third saw it even.

His many disagree. They are saying that Marquez was robbed of his victory. The old part of this story is, many of those claiming that Pacquiao has are Filipinos. Yes, his own countrymen.

I have been watching Pacquiao's fights, via pay-per-view, since he fought Richard Gomez. I am convinced that he won each of those fights, though not necessarily by every round. I am not a boxing expert, but neither am I completely ignorant about the sport. I understand enough of it as I do of basketball and soccer.

Manny's most recent victory does not have been as convincing as his domination of Morales, Margarito, Cotto, Clottey, etc. But a win is a win, and he clearly won, according to the decision of judges who are boxing experts.

PAINFUL? Pacquiao is given a victory ride after his majority decision victory over Juan Manuel Marquez last Nov. 12. | AFP/JOHN GURZINSKI

It is sad to hear and see Filipinos talking from Manny's victory to (still) downers. As the same rules, I feel sorry for these negativists and ungrateful Filipinos. It is as if they are discussing a hero who has scored them. I don't exactly know how they identify a kababayan, but I'm sure, he or she is not necessarily Hispanic looking.

Their disappointment with Manny likely stems from his failure to knock out Marquez. Or, maybe, they are angry because they lost their bets. And maybe it is for those reasons that they now see Manny has to his hard fight with Marquez.

—VIRGIL MORALES, jojobalbas@yahoo.com

Marquez, as challenger, failed to show he was the better fighter

IF THEY don't Pacquiao-Marquez match were a title-fight, I would have agreed with the opinion that Juan Manuel Marquez won the fight. However, it was a title-fight, as the challenger had a heavier burden to prove himself the better fighter inside the ring.

Aside as definition, a "challenger" is the one obliged to engage, vie and breach the fortitude of the person he wishes to overthrow. Hence, Marquez, the challenger, should've been the one engaging Manny Pacquiao. The role of the belligerent was with him, not with the titleist.

But I was Pacquiao who initiated most of the exchanges. He for one, is taken by anyone who doesn't go aggressively and relentlessly for the fray.

Marquez, the boxer, was content to loiter over the match. But Marquez, the challenger, lost it.

—JOEL O. SEBALLOS, rustlepublicer@yahoo.com

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CANNES LIONS APPOINTS FIRST CHINESE JURY PRESIDENT LO SHEUNG YAN TO CHAIR OUTDOOR CATEGORY

In November 2011 - The International Festival of Creativity today announced the first of 15 jury presidents that will lead the judging process at next year's edition of Cannes Lions. Lo Sheung Yan, known as Mayan among his peers, JWT's Executive Creative Director North East Asia and Chairman, China, will lead the Outdoor jury in 2012.

Since joining JWT in 1999, Mayan, who is a member of JWT's global creative council, has helped the agency garner many prestigious regional and global advertising awards. JWT Asia Pacific was named Spikes Asia's 2009 Network of the Year, Ad-Fred's Network Agency of the Year in 2008 and 2009 and JWT Shanghai was Adfred's Agency of the Year 2009.

Mayan has been leading these and again-producing many firsts in China's advertising industry. From winning China's first gold at the Clio Awards, to most recently leading China to win its very first Grand Prix at Cannes Lions in 2011 with Samsonite's print ad "Luggage", which also went on to win three Grands Prix at Spikes Asia this year in the Outdoor, Print and Print & Poster Craft categories.

Making history again by becoming the first Chinese jury head at Cannes, Mayan is more than ready to lead the Outdoor jury. Having judged and chaired various prestigious local, regional and international awards such as Lynpic, Chinese Advertising Awards, Spikes Asia, the Clio Awards, Cannes Lions Internet and ADC.

"The appointment of Mayan as Cannes Lions's first Chinese jury president is a momentous, both for the Festival and for China. In the list of the most awarded countries at the 2011 Festival, China ranked joint 14th place (with Canada) and won its first ever Grand Prix," comments Terry Savage, Festival Chairman. "Great creative work is coming from all over the world and countries that have never won major awards before are now sharing the stage with the more traditional winning nations. We are delighted that we recognise this shift and as such we are delighted to appoint Mayan, a truly inspirational creative, to lead the Cannes Lions 2012 Outdoor Jury."(to continued)

Commenting on his appointment, Mayan says, "The Cannes Lions Festival represents me and celebrates the work of people who are at the forefront of our industry. This appointment is a great honour and recognition for our fellow creatives in China. Our talent and endless passion to push boundaries have slowly turned people's impression of China from one of an emerging market into that of an exciting country."

Mayan also has keen interests in theatre and song-writing. He has written, directed, and acted in stage plays for over 10 years in Hong Kong and has also written lyrics for Asian pop songs and musicals. He is a member of the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong and in 2009 the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce honoured him as one of the Outstanding Hong Kong People in Shanghai.

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Arroyos will try to fly to Singapore today

From page A1

visitors were voided when the couple failed to show up an hour before the scheduled flight, according to MIAA public affairs office chief Connie Bungag.

If the Arroyos intend to be in Singapore by noon today, they should be in any of three flights: Philippine Airlines' PR 511, which is to leave at around 6 a.m.; Tiger Airways' TR 2750, 9:20 a.m.; Cebu Pacific's 5J 881, 6:35 a.m.; and Singapore Airlines' SQ 913, 8:10 a.m.

Glandular ailment

They cited the morning with the doctor's note for an evaluation of Arroyo's dengue of the glands. She said the latter did not like taking too many medicines. Earlier reports said Arroyo's medication came up to at least 22 capsules a day.

"This morning, Secretary Leila de Lima has ruled out of entries. That's Constitution 101, (On Tuesday), she said the DOJ had yet to receive the Supreme Court decision. But we've just learned that the department received it (Tuesday) night. So there is no more reason for her not to allow Mrs. Arroyo to leave," Ilarde told the business.

De Lima said on Tuesday afternoon that the Arroyos would remain on the watch list of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) because she had yet to receive a copy of the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court on the travel ban on the couple.

Former chief Arroyo was still at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City yesterday morning because the latter felt bad after being stopped from leaving by immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 (Data 1).

Ilarde said he was in the office of NBAA General Manager Angel Honrado when the Arroyos arrived at the airport.

THE READY TO-GO TO JAIL. Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. shows a copy of the "continued alert/entry" of the watch-list orders on the Arroyos during Wednesday's news conference at the Bureau of Immigration office in Intramuros, where he also says he was ready to join immigration officers in jail if they are charged—as the GMA aide has threatened.—ANGELICA YAMES

The immigration commissioner said four persons who were to accompany the Arroyos were able to board the Dragon Air aircraft but that they deplaned after learning that the couple were not allowed to leave.

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Sympathy for BI officers

David said a sardonic moment ensued when the immigration officers from the airport on from the watch list was needed before the couple would be allowed to leave.

"That is why I ordered the immigration officers not to allow them to leave. If there's an existing WLO only (Or Libre) (in) life is," he said.

According to David, the Arroyos and their entourage brought numerous copies of the TRO, and they were advised to take those to the justice department or the SC for processing.

David said that even if the Arroyos were allowed to ride the airport, they would not be allowed to leave because their passports would not be stamped.

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David said he thought Arroyo's trip to the airport proved "circumvent" for her. She declined to comment on reference that the couple were just trying to gain public sympathy.

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Don't argue

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Ready for jail

Speaking at a press conference, Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. said he was ready to go to jail along with other immigration officers at the BIA if they would be charged with contempt of court for barring Arroyo from leaving the country on the Tuesday night.

"I will join them in jail because this is an order of the Secretary De Lima's given to me, which I gave to our airport supervisors and relayed to our immigration officers. All of us are in this because there is a presumed organization in BI. If they say we will be imprisoned for a few months, we will join them. But I pity our immigration officers who were just doing their jobs," he said.

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Airport chief: Arroyos made it difficult for themselves

By Jaime Aning

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (MIAA) yesterday denied allegations by the group of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that she was not extended due courtesy when she and her husband attempted to leave the country on Tuesday night.

In a radio interview, MIAA General Manager Angel Honrado refuted the statements of Arroyo's spokesperson Ilocos Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon that the former President suffered inconvenience and was not accorded respect at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3.

"They were the ones who made it difficult for themselves as far as the access to the airport is concerned. Where did we become remiss [in] giving courtesy and convenience to the former President?" he said.

'They chose normal entry'

Honrado said the MIAA had granted a request for passes for the Arroyos' entourage of 20 people as well as vehicles including an ambulance. He said the request was found to the MIAA public affairs office at around 7:19 p.m. and was quickly approved.

Through the Arroyos' liaison, a certain Bienchie Daluz, an arrangement was made whereby the former first couple and their entourage would enter the Naia premises through the ramp gate, where there is direct access to the lounge for dignitaries, Honrado said.

However, he said, the Arroyos chose to go through the normal entry and departure process, "most probably" because the couple was already late for their flight.

He said the Arroyos arrived between 8:05 and 8:08 p.m. for their Dragon Air flight to Hong Kong which was scheduled to depart at 8:50 p.m.

"They never even attempted to go to the ramp. Our people were waiting for them at the ramp gate. The presidential lounge was waiting for them. They know the procedures. This isn't the first time they availed themselves of the [VIP] privilege. That's why we're wondering why we're being accused of not according her courtesy," he said.

Honrado said the inconveniences suffered by Arroyo when she was mobbed by members of the media could have been avoided had the ambulance to which she was riding entered the ramp gate, where she would have proceeded straight to the dignitaries' lounge.

"But they chose to go through normal procedures, and members of the media and [other] people were waiting for them," he said.

GMA row delays P-Noy trip to Asean meeting in Indonesia

From page A1

hand Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the investigation into the week's snatch list, which resulted in the failed flight of the former top official to Singapore on Tuesday night, was "a declaration of war by the executive branch" on the high court. [See story on Page A1.]

In a 27-page urgent motion for reconsideration submitted yesterday to the high court, Dimaampao argued that the issuance of the TRO amounted to a "prejudgment" of the lawyers' separate petitions challenging the constitutionality of DOJ Circular No. 41.

The Limlan had invoked the DOJ order—issued by Arroyo's then justice secretary, Alberto Agra—in putting the former first couple in the watch list order. DE in connection with the government inquiry into the alleged fraud in the 2007 midterm elections in Maguindanao.

"By issuing the TRO, the (high court) has effectively ruled on the constitutionality of DOJ (Circular No.) 41 without hearing and without even sending for (us) to comment on the petitions or for the issues to be joined," the motion filed by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) partly read.

It read further: "The issue today is not whether (a) right to travel must be narrowed taking into consideration the special and peculiar circumstances attendant to her case.

"The issue must strike a balance between the general interest of the state and that of individuals entitled to personal interest in enjoying the right to travel."

Special session

Chief Justice Renato Corona has ordered a special en banc session to allow the justices to deliberate on issues pertinent to the case.

The session, however, was suspended yesterday afternoon, apparently because the justices had not yet decided on the special full court session set 11 a.m. tomorrow.

"This is to tackle pleadings which were not [deliberated on] during the regular en banc session last Tuesday," Marquez told reporters.

He said the DOJ appeal, in Arroyo's memorandum, the SOC 22 and argument to an earlier date, and the DOJ's "alleged defiance" of the TRO would be taken up during the special session.

Marquez said Associate Justice Conchita's order did not mean the suspension of the TRO.

"The TRO stays. It is a the position of the court that it is humanitarianly necessary and that it continues to be effective and it should not be suspended by the court," he said.

Speaking with reporters, De Lima said her order to the Bureau of Immigration and other government agencies to prevent the Arroyos from leaving the country would remain until the high court ruled on the DOJ appeal.

She said that in granting the Arroyos' petition for a TRO, the tribunal had "effectively rendered moot and academic" the consolidated oral arguments and memorandum pleadings regarding the issue.

The DOJ has officially received a copy of the TRO.

Benjamin Abesamis, a previous server from the Clerk of Court, said he initially tried to serve the copy of the TRO on the order at the DOJ shortly before 10 a.m. yesterday but was told to proceed to the Office of the Prosecutor General.

Since the office of Prosecutor General Claro Arellano was still closed, Abesamis said the decision to hand to the Office of the Solicitor.

He said a staff member of De Lima's office officially received the document at exactly 10:20 a.m.

3 sides to a coin

Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz expressed confidence that the justices would restore reality left the TRO.

"I believe we have filed a solid and strong case to argue the government position," Cadiz told reporters.

"It is the position of the government that until and unless (our appeal) is resolved and we have been given a chance to argue our comment and our arguments, the Arroyos cannot leave," he said.

Accompanied by state lawyers, Cadiz attended a three-hour, closed-door meeting with De Lima and other government officials in their legal strategy.

He said the justice should take a second look at their decision to grant the Arroyos' petition for temporary relief "for them to see our reasons and logic."

"There's always two sides to a coin. We think that ours they read our appeal and arguments. They will see that the TRO should not be effective immediately and should be lifted," he said.

As to the possibility that the response on Arroyo's foreign trip may result to a constitutional crisis, Cadiz said: "I don't think so. That's something we are looking at, and that is one reason. Citing that's on the horizon."

Tough battle

Malacañang is ready for a potentially tough battle with the Supreme Court, but is ruling out a constitutional crisis with the high court.

"We're prepared to do what

Palace to GMA: Please stay home, we will not let you leave

By Christine D. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG last night urged former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to stay home and not attempt to leave for Singapore today because she will be barred again from leaving the country.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that Malacañang would support the Arroyo camp's bid to appeal the Supreme Court decided on the merits of its case against allowing Mrs. Arroyo to travel abroad to seek medical treatment.

"This is not defiance. We believe there is a process. We're complying with the processes in the presidential line," Lacierda told reporters.

Addressing Arroyo, Lacierda said: "We are asking for your President always, we believe you'll recover from your high blood pressure and in order to obviate and prevent an instance of high blood pressure, we would like to request President Arroyo is just not to leave, stay there in order to avoid the public humiliation that happened Tuesday night."

Lacierda also said President Aquino would leave for Bali today to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit and would be back on Saturday.

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"We're prepared to do what we believe is right and legal," Communications Secretary Sixto Carandang said when asked if the executive branch was prepared to go head to head with the judiciary over the issue that has caught the attention of the foreign media.

He said the President was standing by De Lima's order to bar Arroyo from leaving the country despite the TRO from the high court, saying that in agreement with De Lima's position that the travel ban would stay until the tribunal ruled on the DOJ's motion for reconsideration.

"We think we stand on solid legal ground in taking the actions that we have," Carandang said repeatedly.

He said the legal justifications presented by Arroyo for her travel were not justified, and hence, the ground for "flight risk."

He argued that the issuance of the TRO was announced in a press conference but was never delivered to the DOJ, and that the government had the right to take legal action.

Carandang also questioned speculations that the President would lead to a constitutional crisis.

"I wouldn't call it that at this point. I think you have one interpretation of the law from the Arroyo camp and one interpretation of the law from the government, and there are ways that this can be resolved," he said.

Carandang also denied that the government was pressuring the Arroyos.

"No, it is a responsibility [it wrote on] and in part to correct accountability from public officials of the past administration. *We are simply doing what we promised to people we would do. And I think, if you look at public opinion, it is squarely behind us,*" he said. With a report from Christina O. Avendaño

'A bit of drama'

By TJ Burgonio

THE PALACE announced that the President would leave for Bali at 10 a.m. today.

Speaking yesterday at a briefing at the Coastguard Multipurpose Center in Fort Bonifacio, Communications Secretary Sixto Carandang admitted that the President had to attend to "a developing domestic situation" in Manila before flying to Indonesia's afternoon session of the 19th Asean summit and possible bilateral meetings with other Asia Pacific leaders.

"There was a bit of drama at the [airport on Tuesday]," Carandang said. "Former President Arroyo attempted to leave the country despite the fact that there are pending cases against her and the justice department had barred her from leaving, causing a bit of a stir... It's that was one of the domestic scenarios that our need to attend to."

Carandang said that while Mr. Aquino would miss the opening plenary, "he is expected to attend the retreat [session], and all of the other sessions that are scheduled for him, including [a bilateral] with the United States."

Leaders of the 10 member regional grouping began arriving yesterday for the summit. The heads of state and government from China, Japan and South Korea, as well as Australia, India, New Zealand, Russia and the United States, among others, are scheduled to fly in today.

Mr. Aquino will return to the Asean US-Leaders' meeting with US President Barack Obama tomorrow afternoon.

'Otso Otso' and other discordant notes on Supreme Court ruling

From page A1

national crisis, with "grievous consequences," for a country not the least of such a crisis was overblown.

Taking too long

The Aquino administration has itself to blame for Arroyo's attempts to leave the country posthaste, since it had been slow to fully act to curb, according to militant and mass-oriented groups.

While condemning Arroyo's attempt to leave the country and supporting moves to block her flight, Bagkahagad People's Democratic Party Chairman Ariel Maliwanag should be faulted for giving Arroyo the chance to go.

Pagbabago spokesperson Fr. Joe Dizon said the Aquino administration has not fulfilled its promise to make accountable for her alleged sins.

Dizon also noted that to contrast, former President Joseph Estrada was arrested and detained just three months after he stepped down from office in 2001. Estrada was eventually convicted of plunder, and subsequently pardoned.

"At the end of the day, Malacañang is to blame as why the Arroyos were able to circumvent their way around the justice system," Dizon said.

Man of the cloth

Yesterday morning saw antiArroyo Bayan Muna holding an "indignation" rally in front of the high court's building in Manila and calling Justices "evil plotters" and "blind hypocrites." The blues was assisted by some 20 people from three different advocacy groups.

Other religious leaders, including two archbishops, however, sided with the Supreme Court.

Respect SC decision

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma urged the Aquino administration to respect the tribunal's decision, saying that every Filipino has the obligation to follow the pronouncement.

"We should respect and follow the processes and laws in our country [and] if that is what the Supreme Court said, we should bow to that," Ledesma said over Church-run Radio Veritas.

Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, a staunch critic of Arroyo when she was the President, said the Supreme Court decision was late. "Let her go now and have her cure," he said, adding that Arroyo's illness is suffering from a bone disease.

Karma

Magindanao Gov. Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu said Arroyo should be treated like others in the country and not be allowed to leave because she was facing serious charges ranging from electoral fraud to plunder.

"This is her karma," Mangudadatu said on the sidelines of the hearing on the Maguindanao massacre case at Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

Jun Lozada

Joining the press conference and march rally were outspoken whistle-blower Jun Lozada, and advocacy groups Black and White Movement, Onward Malolos na Kalayaan, Mabuhay Filipinas, Bantayan, People Power Volunteers for Reform and Movement for Advancement of Student Power.

Bemoaning the opinion of ex-Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who was also present at the rally, Lozada said Arroyo's bond amounts were unbelievable and can be treated in the Philippines.

"The public needs to clearly guard the Arroyos so they do not escape. They already attempted last night, it only took thirty-all by this every day. They must face their more than 25 cases of fraud and plunder," Hontiveros said.

Akbayan gave full support for the Bureau of Immigration and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for preventing the Arroyos from leaving the country. "[De Lima] showed courage ... stood for what was right," Hontiveros said.

Lame excuse

Fr. Randolfo Aquino, dean of the Graduate School of Law of San Beda College, branded as "patently lame" De Lima's "excuse" that the Arroyos could not leave just yet because she had yet to file a motion for reconsideration with the high court.

"The Supreme Court's TRO is very clear," Aquino said over Radio Veritas. "[It] said it was immediately executory [so] the moment she heard the news, it was her duty to check with the Supreme Court whether or not a TRO had in fact been issued," he added.

Legal showdown

The priest said the justice secretary had no intention of abiding by the judgment of the Supreme Court, a situation that he described as "extremely shameful for a lawyer."

But Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said he was not expecting De Lima in acting everything at her disposal to prevent Arroyo from leaving, to the point of causing a legal showdown with the high court.

"De Lima is well within her rights to exhaust all legal and administrative remedies in upholding the interest of justice with in the bounds of due process and human rights," Casiño said.

Move to emasculate court

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the issue of the former President's medical condition and right to travel were "merely incidental" when compared to the executive branch's move to emasculate and damage the Supreme Court, and to unilaterally assert its supremacy over the Supreme Court."

He assailed De Lima for "openly defying" the court order.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said a constitutional crisis was "very closely a real danger than our country is facing."

"We're going to support the Supreme Court or shall we support the executive branch over the Supreme Court? It's actually headed for disaster. We're very, very near the edge of the cliff and we might all go tumbling down if we do not put a break to all of these procedings," she said separately.

Aghast

Santiago said she was "aghast" at De Lima's defiance.

"So whatever [travel thought] would one day takes a Cabinet member would deliberately, openly and in contemptuous defiance to obey an order of the Supreme Court."

Sen. Franklin Drilon downplayed the fear of a constitutional crisis. "I don't see any constitutional crisis happening," he told reporters.

In the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Edcel Lagman said it was incumbent on President Aquino to prevent a constitutional crisis.

Lagman noted that the while the military is not sworn to uphold the Constitution, some elements could take advantage of the situation.

Pampanga mayors

Agitated by the developments in the Supreme Court proceedings, Arroyo's home province, are calling for a big Kapampangan unity in front of the Department of Justice office in Manila, according to Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo.

But Pelayo, president of the Pampanga Mayor's League, said he and some leader heads at the PML had asked the mayors to remain calm and prayer the administration would. Once Arroyo, sure a representative of Pampanga's second district, better.

Former Vice Gov. Gelo Macapagal-Arlegui said Mr. Aquino should let her fend their own economic abroad not only because the Supreme Court had allowed her to travel but also because of her medical condition.

"I'm so sad. I'm so worried," Arlegui said.

In a hurry

In Tagum City in Davao del Norte province, Mayor Rey Uy said the decision of Immigration was right in preventing the former President from leaving because she was facing many charges.

"There's no hurry to leave and avoid prosecution. She should be jailed," Uy said.

In Butuan City, law professor James Reverso said under a democratic form of government, the executive department is duty bound to heed and respect decision rendered by the highest court of the land. With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Cynthia D. Rebano, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora, Jess Mamba, Yolanda Infalo, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jaime Laude and Danielle Orozco, Inquirer General Luzon; and Inquirer.net Jaymark Dagala, Priscilla Lim, Franklin Gobgobil, Inquirer Mindanao

AdCongress tilt up at AROG

A ROUND of golf, the country's only golf TV show, features the fourth and final leg of the AdCongress 72-golf tournament at Sta. Elena as it airs its Season 10 episode 7 at 8 p.m. on Solar Sports at Global Destiny 30, Sky Cable Digital 70 and Cablelink 34. Host Dondon Jo joins the top teams and highlights the previous legs of the annual tournament that includes members of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and their media guests.

SPORTS

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FVI's Iris Bulosa punishes her men room during her 8-ball/8-ball match against Indonesia's Mutiara Hatnia took the goal, 5-1. KIMI HONLAO

Zaragosa keeps share of men's golf lead

By Mayang R. Castillo

SUBIC, West Zone—Rupert Zaragosa remained tied for the men's individual lead Wednesday but the Filipinos virtually kissed their gold medal hopes goodbye in both team competitions of the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

The 5-foot, 8-Filipino even-number carded a 71 and remained on top with That Sarinnaree Pitsanuntu after 54 holes with a 216 total even as Julius Carlos also moved into medal contention with a 71 for 219.

But the men's team title now seemed a lock for Thailand with the Filipinos still 13 strokes behind while holding third, four off Indonesia.

Prospects looked worse in ladies' play with defending champion Chitwara Seda now trailing by six in individual play and the Filipinos nine behind the Thais in team competition with one round left.

While a 12-1 rally for the day eases the edges of the 77s of Jen Arbido or Clyde Mondilla, the Philippines had a 663 after three rounds as the Japanese Golf and Country Club's own.

Ian Andrew Brod a 72, Rendil Jalijandoona had a 74 and Indonesia got a day best 70 from George Ki as the host team retained 659, nine behind the rampaging Thais.

"We're in a good spot because we have a chance to win three medals (in men's play)," head of Philgolf delegation Tommy Manotoc told the bayanan. "Of course we are hoping for the best, but right now, it seems that the only realistic thing to some play is second place.

"Rupert will go all out to win."

Malaysia bowed out of contention when members of its squad suffered from food poisoning, with Low Kai Jet, tied for the lead at the start of the day, withdrawing after six holes because of severe dehydration.

Bulls, the gold medal winner in 2009 in Laos, assembled a 76 for 146 and trailed Thai Pirnath Borwhonrat, who fired a 75, by six in individual play.

Jessica Yeadon added a 74 as the Thais posted a 287 aggregate to lead the team event, which the Filipinos also ruled two years ago.

Justin Arabia carded a 74 for a 150 individual total while completing the 206 PH team total after 36 holes. Indonesia did not count with as 80.

A solitary gold on Day 6 from paddler Cordova

By Roy Luarca in Palembang and Mayang R. Castillo in Jakarta

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Paddler Antonio Cordova prevented Team Philippines from plunging deeper in the standings of the 26th Southeast Games Wednesday when he captured the gold medal in the men's singles sculls on Wednesday at the Lake Upside in West Area.

Motivated by the trust shown by Lithuanian coach Rolandas Rashinskas, who chose him over three-time SEA Games champion Benjie Tolentino, Cordova surged ahead of the halfway mark and sailed the 2,000-meter event in seven minutes and 10.8 seconds.

Cordova's surprise victory turned out to be the Filipinos' lone bright moment for the day as they settled for seven silvers in various events and remained stuck in the race for overall supremacy.

A Petty Officer Third Class in the Navy, Cordova, pride of Manila, Negros Occidental, finished nearly three seconds faster than Thailand's Chaithana Thakom (7:21.8) and over six seconds better than Myanmar's Aung Ko Min.

Late in the night, the women's softball team trounced the Indonesians, 5-1, and will share the gold on Saturday as the Philippines Sport City field.

Missing the golds were teammates Eric Pantoja, Enzoclaimer John Paul Gomez, rue wrestler Francisco de la Cruz, wrestler Roque Mata-ag archers Jennifer Chan and Paul Benjamin Ng and bowlers Rhoy Rivera and Frederick Ong.

Unable to show the form that landed him the men's singles title, Ong could only muster a six-game series of 1,077 and, combined with Rivera's 1,213, gave them a 197.50 average in the men's doubles won by Malaysians Adrian Ang and Liew Kien Liang with an average of 202.98.

Pantoja, taking the redgirls for defending champion Eduardo "Verdz" Buenaventura, persevered to clock 2:28.26 for the 42K route, but could not get past Indonesia's Tobias (2:27.45) at the conclusion of Games' centerpiece athletics. Struggling before Buenaventura nosed 2:29.09 and settled for the bronze this time. Marathon queen Jho-an Rosanna landed only sixth.

The tourist Mata-ag dropped his final bout to Vietnam's Nguyen Tien Anh to the 62 kg freestyle. Thus far, the wrestlers have collected two golds, three silvers and one bronze.

Chan and Ng were on target after the morning eliminations but fizzled out against their rivals from Myanmar and Indonesia in the final rounds.

Despite winning his last two matches, Gomez could only gain a tie with Viet-namese GM Le Quang Liem and eventually lose the blindfold chess gold by virtue of the winners over the other rule. Le beat Gomez in the crucial seventh round. Another FIL-ipino, GM Darwin Layla, took the bronze.

On la Cruz missed the gold of earned Malaysia's Yeoman Zhi Min Gang, 70-100, after 22 innings. Earlier, Cain downed Rhea "Baca" Reyes in their semifinal duel.

Settling for the bronze medal in the sinewing men's light doubles were Alvin Amposta and rookie Edgar Bas.

As of 8 p.m. (10 p.m. in Manila), the Filipinos could only garner 15 golds, 28 silvers and 34 bronzes, easy behind the Malaysians (37-34-44) and the Singaporeans (29-32-46), who are nudging each other out for fourth place.

The Indonesians fleeted up their field of top spot with an 87-66-69 tally, over as Vietnam (54-55-50) surprisingly overtook reigning overall titlist Thailand (52-41-60).

Defending champions Alice Rose Aparri and Charly Suson whipped their respective opponents to forge the host's long semifinals over as Andrea Cruz and Janel Canson-ido bowed out of contention. Reports from Ricardo Dalisdis

FVI's Samantha Bermudez displays her resolve en route to a bronze medal in the wrestling event. KIMI HONLAO

Gomez cops blindfold chess silver

By Roy Luarca

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Grandmaster John Paul Gomez bowed his last two opponents to clinch the silver medal in the blindfold chess competition at the Swarna Dwipa Hotel here.

Smarting from a seventh round loss to eventual champion GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam, Gomez topped Malaysian International Master Jimmy Liew to the eighth round then silenced out his last rabbi a stalemate over Indonesian IM Yeta Chandra Purnama.

He actually finished tied with Le, who crushed Indonesian IM Liew Shidu then drew with Malaysian IM Mok Tze-Ming in 7.0 points but the Vietnamese took the gold by virtue of the winner-over-the-other rule.

Another Filipino, GM Darwin Layla, who bowed to Gomez in the first round but cornered Le in the fourth, took the bronze with 6.5 points.

Vietnamese GM Ho Thien Hai and WGM Nguyen Thi Thanh are leading the mixed pair competition with 10 points. Trailing the top-seeded Vietnamese duo is the Filipino tandem of GM Oliver Barbosa and WFM Catherine Perena-Inglesi (nine).

Indonesia's Ni Putu Candra Dewi and Thailand emerged champion in the Asean chess competition, a reduction of standard chess initiated by Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar.

The silver medal went to Wynn Zaw Htun of Myanmar while veteran Filipino IM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, a novice in the event, failed to bag a medal.

The 47-year-old Antonio, a 12-time national champion, will try to compensate when he participates in the individual rapid competition with Indonesia starting Thursday.

Top Filipino hope GM Wesley So will open his campaign in men's standard play against Fide Master Kyaw Lin Naing of Myanmar.

THE PHILIPPINES' Alice Aparri (right) pummels Lanel Haugh Phoebah during their fight-fly bout. Aparri scored an 11-0 win. KIMI HONLAO

Panique 2nd in marathon; GTK Army nails just 2 wins

By Roy Luarca

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Filipino trackmen took off flying, but ended up bruised and humbled in the 26th Southeast Asian Games here.

Long jumper Marestella Torres stumbled her most vexed with a giant leap of 6.71 meters while Rene Herrera remained resplendent bring right on the first day of athletics competition at the Jakabaring Sport Center.

The Sarimanok got some in the succeeding days, with marathoners Eric Panique and Eduardo Buenavista capping the sparetying with a silver and a bronze in the final event of track and field.

It was the bronze merger by the Filipino tandem since the 1999 SEA Games in Brunei, when the country managed to win just one gold.

Panique, pride of Hinunangan City, Negros Occidental, clocked 2 hours 28 minutes 26 seconds for the 42K route, unable to keep pace with Indonesian Yehuza, who claimed the gold in 2:27:18.

The 31-year-old Buenavista, once a 5-foot bundle of stamina and power, could only register 2:29:09, way off his runaway winning time of 2:23:19 in the 2009 Laos SEA Games.

Jho-An Rosanna, who stumbled the gold in Vientiane with a burst of speed in the last kilometer, fared even worse in the faceoff after sandwiched out of the medal with an effort of 2:50:40, good for fourth.

Indonesian superwoman Triyusingh bagged the gold in 2:45:35, thwarting Myanmar's Ni Lar San (2:46:27) and Vietnam's Pham Thi Binh (2:46:41).

Out of the 138 medals ended in addition, the Filipinos could only account for 16 with two golds, nine silvers and five bronzes as they tumbled from fourth to fifth overall in the Games' centerpiece event. They improved on their 14-medal haul in Laos.

Powerhouse Thailand kept its track and field supremacy with a 54-8-10 gold-silver-bronze tally.

Texters whip Clickers; Bolts tame Tigers

By Jane Navarro

TALK 'N' Text showed some of its muscle power even in dumping winless Shopnian.com, 98-83, to move closer to the playoffs of the PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Jimmy Castro pumped in 18 of his 17 points in a decisive run in the second quarter and Japeth Aguilar had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Tropang Texters, who masterfully filled the gaps left by their injured key players.

"The key for us in this game was not to take them lightly," said TNT coach Chot Reyes after the Tropang Texters clinched their seventh victory in eight games to retain the solo lead.

Shopnian.com's import Powerade in the second game with Mac Cardenas scoring off Francis Alfaro in the dying seconds to end the 98-96 win.

The Bolts picked up their ninth victory in 10 games to climb to fifth.

Sporting king Gary David produced 26 points, Beng Reason had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and top rookie pick JV Casio finally came out of his shell with 14 for the Tigers, who absorbed a third straight defeat for a 3-6 record.

Injuries to guards Ryan Reyes (HEEL) and Jimmy Alapag (foot) and forwards Aaron Aban (ACL) and Kirk Alvarez (left hand) apart from the absence of Ali Peek didn't stop TNT from nearing the Clickers apart.

Jimmy Castro's three and a fast-break ignited a crippling 14-3 run capped by a Larry Fonacier triple for a 28-point TNT cushion in the last.

The loss runs the 18 straight for Shopnian.com.

Meanwhile, PBA Commissioner Chito Salud has approved the trade that brought forwards Erics Menkhaire and Alvin Sheldon to Cambos.

Salud, however, revised the original proposal by adding a second-round pick for B-Meg next year along with the acquisition of the 6-foot-9 Yancy De Ocampo.

AKTV on IBC 13
Kakampi ng Pinoy Athletes!

Cage golden double bid down to 2 wins

THE PHILIPPINES' Lan Florcruz (center) tries to shake off Myanmar's Wai Yee. —

By Manuel B. Cardillo

KUAPA, GOSONG, Jakarta—It's turn to go for the national cagers in their bid to pull off an unprecedented golden basketball double in the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

Playing to host guns as his defending champion men's team under Norman Black outclassed Thailand, 103-69, Wednesday to reach the semifinals as the Group A topnotcher at Bekasi Arena here.

The women's team known as Isa Convey Perlas ng Pilipinas then stormed past Myanmar, 57-30, for its second straight victory in the five-team round-robin competition.

The Filipinos have dominated this event since gaining the honors in 1977, but their women counterparts have yet to win with Malaysia and Thailand alternating as champions.

This time, the cagers here came into the tournament as hot favorites after winning the Jacobs championship in Manila last year over the same field that is playing here.

The Filipinos will likely face Malaysia in the crossover semifinals before meeting the survivor of the Indonesia-Thailand match for the men's side.

The women's championship will be decided Friday when the Perlas face rakes on Thailand, site unknown to two gamers. Indonesia, also in the men's games on Fri, will be the Aceha Sea's last foe.

"We are very motivated because the players want this kind of Nationals to be the first to win for the (Philippines) the fifteenth basketball gold," coach Jonathan Ong said.

"And our team to win this for Casey (Flores), the dragon-striker. All team center who could now is confined at the Makati Medical Center."

"It was another good game for us, especially on the defensive end," Black said.

Box:
PHILIPPINES (103) — Castro 16, Barroca 11, Lao 10, Semerad 9, Fernandez 9, Lastimosa 8, Pascual 8, Ramos 7, Lamsen 6, Salvador 5, Ilustre 5, Sta. Ana 5, Calimag 2, Tiu 2, Ildefonso 2, Ramirez 2, Gallarza 2, Ong 0, Ilustre 0, Ilustre 0, Ilustre

Southwoods Srs golf on

THE MANILA Southwoods Seniors Tournament Birthday Bash/Pro-Christmas tournament gets under way today with 60 players expected to clash for top honors in various divisions at the Masters layout in Carmona, Cavite.

The shotgun start tee off will be at 8 a.m. with titles in Classic A (0-12), B (13-24), C (25-36), Super Senior (70 years old and above) to be disputed under the individual medal format, according to the organizing Senior Chapter, headed by president Lito Cedo and vice-president Flora Gonzalez.

A Yamaha Golf Cart from Yamaha, a Mitsubishi Lancer IT M/T car and a Wilson golf set are at stake in hole-in-one prizes in the tournament capping the three-leg tournament among Southwoods' golfing senior members and their guests.

The event is promoted assembly by Andoy Pedia, Fernando, and Bandita by Earl Plata and Wilson Sports and backed by Remigio Inc., Vantage Point and Asia Pacific Golf Corp. Hole sponsors are Manfred Serrano, Red Eagle Landing Investors, Cargo Clic air-conditioning, Camp O' John Hay Golf Club, Philippine Star Communications, Tacoma Philippines and Rudy Project.

Juvic leads 6 PH bets in $2M Johor Open

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia—Padraig Harrington of Ireland is gearing up for a tough title defense when he takes on the elite cast at the Iskandar Johor Open starting Thursday.

Harrington, who has yet to win this year, will battle against the 2010 British Open champion and the highest ranked player this week Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa, as to-form Anthony Kim of the United States and Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand, a three-time Asian Tour Order of Merit champion at the Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club.

Filipino Juvic Pagunsan, the new Order of Merit leader, will lead the home charge alongside Jeev Milkha Singh of India, Lu Wei-chih of Chinese Taipei, who has won more this year, and Siddikur of Bangladesh in the $2 million event sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

Other 156 entries are Antonio Murakami, winner of the inaugural edition of the event in 2007, Hiram Salvador, Antonio Lascuna, Mars Pocay and rookie Miguel Tabuena, who posted a career-best fourth place in his last tournament, the Mercuries Taiwan Masters, two weeks ago.

Harrington, a three-time Major champion, has been struggling to hit top form since entering the Iskandar Johor Open last year and he knows his ambitions of a successful title defense will be foiled by a strong challenge this week.

PAGUNSAN

"There are 156 guys here this week, and more—if not all—of them are very good players," said Harrington. "So you're going to have to play very well and look a lot of pars to win."

A seventy Pagunsan, who has yet to take the rest on the Asian Tour this year, will be playing in his eighty-seventh week but is upbeat of winning a third title in Malaysia if he can get his putter working.

"I'm feeling a bit tired. I haven't been home for eight weeks but I'm feeling very comfortable with my game," said Thongchai, who earned 42 last week. Asian Tour News

New roles for Y'husbands

WHEN IT was announced that James and Phil Younghusband had signed a three-year contract with MVP, my initial impression was that the Younghusband brothers had decided to redirect the path of their careers from sports to showbiz.

Partly, at least.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Sitcom, noontime hosting, talk shows. I started having visions of the two lanky hunks starring in their kind of television programs.

That's why I was surprised when Phil, the younger of the two, told me during a one-on-one interview that he had absolutely no intention of going into show business.

James said neither does he.

If that was the case, what was the excited talk/ARTF all about?

"No plans at all?" I repeated the question.

"None at all," the Younghusbands said.

* * *

The first time I laid eyes on the Younghusband brothers, they were featured on television teaching basketball to young kids—indigent kids if my impression were accurate.

I just assumed that I stayed in on that program. The Younghusbands were practically unheard of at the time and the Ateneo were yet to be born.

Needless to say, I was both impressed and touched. Here's a pair of 20-Britons are giving their time and effort to spread the gospel of football in a country where barely anybody cared about the sport.

For me, that was a giant, if not impossible, undertaking.

Although I soon forgot their faces, their unique name I remembered.

I heard it recognized again when the Philippine Football team, now known as Azkals won its first AFC Suzuki Cup.

From there, football rose to unprecedented heights of popularity for the Azkals and the Younghusbands.

* * *

According to James, the contract that he and Phil signed with AETV has officially made them a part of the sports channel's roster of football superstars for the next three years.

As Azkals supporters, AETV sports chief Wito Lazatin said The brothers will have a network platform to help promote the newest's football ambassadors.

"We will be teaching the basics of football, we will share our knowledge of proper diet and nutrition, but that's not all. Pero ang importante sa amin is to be a good person and how to socialize with people, stuff like those," said James.

The Younghusbands will serve as the product role models to young athletes and ordinary kids who aspire to be like them.

The two are very friendly and approachable and they have no airs about them, despite their popularity.

"In the beach, non-stop autograph, said they intend to stay in the Philippines for good.

* * *

"Time some time to make your scholarship application," Phil quizzed me. (I did not come from the last three batch Red, Manila Standard's entertainment editor who walked in during the interview. He was referring to actress Angel Locsin).

Before, Phil could answer the question, Bath asked him another one.

"Why are you still keeping it a secret, when everybody knows about it. If you don't want to admit, then tell us what she is in your life."

The sizzle had many more juicy questions, but Phil had no interesting answers. I was requested not to publish your particularly juicy answers, from which to distill to new revelations.

Phil decided to switch the conversation to the Younghusbands football coaching, a mobile football clinic which gives them opportunity to spread the Philippines to reach the sport.

"The clinic also aims to show anyone interested that football can be taught even in a small space. We've been doing it for some time, but we've never felt our adversary," the Younghusbands said.

PACQUIAO Fights just for the heck of it now.

Pacman: It's clear I won

By Francis T.J. Cebrua

LOS ANGELES—Manny Pacquiao arrived here Tuesday morning all the more convinced he won his lucky-delayed bout against rival Juan Manuel Marquez after studying the fight tapes carefully before making the road trip from Las Vegas.

"I watched the tape twice, including the six-two replays," Pacquiao said. "It's clear I won."

Pacquiao and Marquez fought 12 more rounds—bringing to 36 the number of three-minute slugfests they have engaged in during their compelling rivalry Saturday at the Garden Arena of the MGM Grand, which ended in a majority decision for the Filipino congressman from Sarangani province.

The result drew a chorus of boos from the crowd—and scathing rebukes in print and online after the controversial cruciverbalists gave questions for a match that was supposed to quash all doubts in the first place.

Judge Glenn Trowbridge saw it 115-112 for Pacquiao, Dave Moretti had it 115-113 for the pound-for-pound king whose reign is beating's amphetic throne is standing on shaky ground. Robert Hoyle scored it 114-114.

"Anyone can argue, but I won," said Pacquiao.

Top Rank chief Bob Arum also said he was convinced Pacquiao won after watching the replays.

Marquez claimed he was robbed yet another time after two previous, equally close bouts. The first time they met, the Mexican counterpuncher rose from three knockdowns in forge a draw. The second time, Pacquiao scored a crucial knockdown in the third round to hammer out another close decision.

Those two close bouts were exactly the reason why a third fight was forged. A fourth installment would put in peril even a planned superbout with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"I'm amenable to a fourth fight," Pacquiao said. "At least, I know my opponent deserves it."

Arum said he wants a fourth fight, too, if only to finally find a "definitive answer between the two." Trainer Freddie Roach said a fourth fight wasn't something he wanted to do, but it was a bout he "might have to do."

Lehnert gets back at Chinese rival

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KAOHSIUNG Lehnert backed out a three-set victory against her nemesis in the last week to make up for the stinging defeat of three days ago yesterday in the first round of the ICTSI-ITF Women's Circuit Week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Fil-German Lehnert overcame from a sluggish first set and blew down match-points to the third to beat Taiwanese Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

The golden-haired, brown-skinned emerger took a 6-1, 4-2 beating from Lu in the semifinals of the first phase of the twin tourney last week.

"I was kinda nervous," admitted Lehnert. "Especially when she was having cramps, I said I needed to be careful with my shots."

The country's young hen said: bend singling hours with age-group hopefuls Jamika Nguyen and Malka Jae Empuerto heading quickly to the exits of the tourney, which is playing behind schedule after matches were halted due to rains Tuesday.

Nguyen, 17, ran into top seed and last week's semifinalist Luksika Kumkhum of Thailand who took her out, 6-2, 6-3. Empuerto, 16, lost to Taiwan's Chia Jung-wei, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2).

Unturned Dudas also fell, losing to Chinese second seed Zhao Yijing, 6-2, 6-3.

Lehnert will next face Chinese Taipei fourth seed Juan Ting-fei, who brushed off Saisiko Shimizu of Japan, 6-3, 6-3.

Amateur crowd favorite, Rebecca Nassanian-Isabel, downed Ellis seed Lu Jiaqing, the twin sister of Lu, who retired due to injury after the third set.

New schedule for 'Bakbakan'

DUE to overwhelming response of prominent participants, the "MVP National Bakbakan 11-Song Derby" will have its eight-round on Nov. 23, Monday, at the Bonifacio Aviators Coliseum.

The scheduled semifinal round the following day also set the Big Dome, will push through as scheduled.

The number of teams reached 3,832 as of yesterday, according to National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) president Elmer Palaseanes Jr.

Fights will also be held today at Team Cockpit Arena and in Pasay City Cockpit and San Juan Mega Cockpit (Batangas) tomorrow.

Other "Bakbakan" schedules are Nov. 24 (San Pedro Coliseum, Laguna) and Nov. 26 (Pasig Square Garden 1. For inquiries, call 0920-9822527 or 7954351.

6 rich races highlight SMB-Marho Cup festival

MELIE CITLEO Six Pegi and three other sound seasons make up the cast vying in the San Miguel Beer Classic, one of the six big undercurrents highlighting the SMB-Marho Cup Stakes racing festival at the Santa Ana Park in Pulo, Cavite on Sunday.

The most successful horse last year with a string of stakes victories including the Presidential Gold Cup, Yes Pegi goes up against Cavitelo, Lucena-Made and Starlet in the 2000m Classic race that offers P1 million to the champion.

The afternoon festival is sponsored by SMB, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philracom, Philippine Racing Club, Clark Marco Foundation, Hippio Feeds, Nonks Trading and Pagcor.

Leonardo Javier Jr. and Eric Tugle, Marho chair and president, respectively, expressed their gratitude "to all our friends who helped us make this event possible."

The Juniors: SMB Classic (2,000 m)

Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Owner
Yes Pegi	Jonathan Hernandez	Ariel Herrera	Pegi Stable
Cavitelo	Jesse Guce	Jeffrey Cruz	Cavitelo Stable
Lucena-Made	Jeffrey Arbolado	Jeffrey Cruz	Lucena-Made Stable
Starlet	Jonathan Hernandez	Ariel Herrera	Pegi Stable
Philippine Amanda	Jeffrey Arbolado	Jeffrey Cruz	Philippine Amanda Stable
Dancing Star	Jesse Guce	Jeffrey Cruz	Dancing Star Stable
Sir Tim	Rafael Jr. Suguitan	Fiona de Jesus	Sir Tim Stable
Sweet 16	Rafael Jr. Suguitan	Fiona de Jesus	Sweet 16 Stable
Philippine Jacinda	Jeffrey Arbolado	Jeffrey Cruz	Philippine Jacinda Stable
Fabulous	Jesse Guce	Jeffrey Cruz	Fabulous Stable
Dancing Star	Jesse Guce	Jeffrey Cruz	Dancing Star Stable
Dancing Affair	Dionne Bunsay	Jeffrey Cruz	Dancing Affair Stable
Always Ready	Jonathan Hernandez	Ariel Herrera	Pegi Stable
Sweet Dash	Jeffrey Arbolado	Jeffrey Cruz	Sweet Dash Stable
Always Ready	Jonathan Hernandez	Ariel Herrera	Pegi Stable

SPORTSWATCH

Kay Barui new Arellano coach

KAY Barui, one of the two coaches who led, was titles in both the UAAP and NCAA, has been appointed coach of NCAA squad Arellano U, replacing Leo Isaac.

Barui will take over a squad that has never made the Finals but once they joined the league in 2008.

"I'm excited to be back in college basketball," said Barui, whose last coaching stint was in 2006 when he steered San Beda to the title.

Before Barui led the Chiefs' slide in the country's oldest collegiate league, Barui, who actually played college ball for Arellano in the 1980s, said he will put emphasis on recruitment as he attempts to rebuild the squad that won just six games last season.

"We will be keeping a keen eye on talent both locally and internationally," said Barui.

Barui's last two stints with the Fusion U, including in 2004 after La Salle was stripped of the crown for fielding ineligible players in their title run. Barui steered PCU from down to the years during his tenure. Ceb&FT Sspor

WCSA, NHCAA open Saturday

PHILSPARK, Women's University will host the Philippine Collegiate Swimming Association (PCSA) and Metro National Collegiate Athletic Association (MNCAA) which open their new season at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Both leagues are on its 18th season, and the 80 MNCAA host eight member schools.

Aside from PWU, the other NCSA teams are defending champion Ateneo, St. Scholastica, San Beda Alabang, Manila Tytana College, De La Salle-Zobel and University of Asia & the Pacific.

MNCAA members are Centro Escolar U, San Beda Alabang, St. Scholastica, PWU, Ateneo, Our Lady of Angels Seminary College, STI and Ubay.

Mariella Benitez, team captain of the Ateneo women's football squad and PWU's senior for sports development, said that the welcome remarks.

STI, JMC forge Champs League duel

CAGAYAN DE ORO—representative STI and Jose Maria College of Davao City clashed separate rivals Tuesday to forge a finals showdown in the Mindanao Regional Championship of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League at the Ateneo De Cagayan Arena.

The Olympians, who ruled the CDO league for the right to represent North Mindanao, overpowered Ateneo de Davao, 101-54, while the Kings toppled General Santos City bet Holy Trinity College, 107-80.

The winner of the Olympians-Kings clash will face Cebu Schools Athletic Association Inc. (CesaFi) champion University of Cebu in the finals this Saturday.

Southwestern U, the CesaFi runner-up, will meet the winner of the Visayas championship.

Tournament nominations Joe Lipa said ASIS CBS Sports will air the regional championship games and Sweet 16 matches on 9Oct 23.

The Sweet 16 kicks off Saturday with University of Northern Philippines facing National U and La Salle tangling with University of Batangas. Also natural of Sweet 16 berths are Ateneo, San Beda, Far Eastern U, San Sebastian, Adamson, Letran, University of Santo Tomas and Jose Rizal U. Ceb&FT Sspor

Dickies Cup: Adamson, FEU, Lyceum prevail

SAAF REMEMBER Adamson outlasted Centro Escolar U, 87-79, to jumpstart its title campaign in the NCBL Dickies Cup at the Philippine Basketball gym in Quezon City over the weekend.

The Lady Falcons teamed on Jinky Barraca and Mary Jo Sauanda, who combined for 45 points, to ward off the Nuevo champions.

The Lady Tamaraws also blasted the University of the East Lady Warriors, 71-53, in the event supported by Gatas, Mang Inasal, Home Depot and Powerhouse.

Also winning their opening games, graced by Dickies Philippine CEO Jose F. Adonca, were the De La Salle Lady Archers against the UST Tigress, 60-40, and the Lyceum Lady Pirates over the Ateneo La Ayclagan, 59-41.

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DID YOU KNOW

THERE are 264 foreign nationals in the country as of August this year, according to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Of the total, 63 percent or 166 foreigners are detained in the National Capital Region, the highest among the country's regions.
Sahlee Quindala, Inquirer Research

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Echiverri cleared of criminal charges

By Leila B. Salaverria

REVERSING its earlier findings, the Office of the Ombudsman has ordered the dismissal of criminal charges filed against Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri over the arrest of parking attendants in 2004.

In a resolution approved earlier this month, the Ombudsman said that the case against Echiverri cannot be pushed since he is protected and was filed belatedly.

It also noted that the arrests were authorized by law since the parking attendants were found to be violating ordinances which the mayor had the authority to enforce.

Echiverri was charged before the Sandiganbayan in June over the alleged unlawful arrest of employees of Jadewell Parking Systems Corp. and for persuading them from enforcing a street pay parking system in 2004. The contract for the parking scheme had been suspended that same year through an ordinance.

The filing of the case was knocked down twice issued by Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro who found the mayor liable for the arrests, a finding which Echiverri contested.

But in its new ruling, the Office of the Ombudsman said that at that time, Echiverri had received reports that Jadewell employees were still collecting parking fees despite the suspension of the pay parking scheme.

Considering that they were violating the city ordinance and had not denied the accusation against them, it ratified Echiverri that the authority to enforce the laws in his jurisdiction.

It also said that when the Jadewell employees did not honor the suspension of the pay parking operations in Caloocan, their acts constituted disobedience to a person in authority.

"All told, the alleged arrests authorized by law and the facts and circumstances therein are provide a reasonable ground therefor," it added.

The OSP also said that the filing of a complaint against Echiverri for unlawful arrest seemed to be an "afterthought... if not united with political or ulterior motive."

It noted that the filing came after another case against the mayor—this time for graft and violation of the code of conduct for public officials in connection with the suspension of the pay parking operations—was dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

It added that the alleged unlawful arrests were not even recorded in the police blotter and that it took more than a year before the parking attendants attested to the truthfulness of the contents of their affidavits.

It also took another year for the complaint to be filed, it added.

Given these findings, the OSP asked the Sandiganbayan First Division to withdraw the criminal case against Echiverri and cancel his arraignment which was supposed to take place on Dec. 1.

QC residents wake up to smog

Cooler weather expected in a few weeks

By Leila B. Salaverria

VISIBILITY was poor early yesterday morning in Quezon City after days of a combination of smoke and fog, according to the weather bureau. Hindered were area, making driving difficult for motorists.

The cold weather that caused the formation of fog was not due to the arrival of northeast monsoon but the rains Metro Manila experienced earlier, resulting to a drop in temperature, said Nathaniel Cruz, Pagasa-DOST (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration-Department).

Since the temperature on the ground was not cold, there was no immediate condensation of water vapor which, instead of rising, formed a cloud-like fog on the ground, Cruz explained.

Among cars impacted on Commonwealth and East Avenue in Quezon City, prompting weather officials to advise motorists to drive carefully.

It disappeared later in the day as the sun started to come out.

The effects of the smallest, which brings cold, dry air from Siberia into the country, is expected to be felt in a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, Pagasa is keeping an eye on three pressure area located still kilometers east of Casiguran, Aurora, as of yesterday morning.

It said the whole country would experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

A THICK blanket of smog creeps up a road in Novaliches, Quezon City, hiding rows of buildings and even towering lampposts from plain sight. JONATHAN CELLONA

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'Killer highway' mishap leaves 34 people hurt

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TERROR-stricken people were hurt when two passenger buses figured in an accident in the middle of a heavy downpour in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

Traffic investigator Noel Moya of the Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Group said the injured were composed of passengers of GDN Transit bus with plate number TZH-491 and Rosalinda Bus with plate number TZG-647. They were taken to East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

The drivers and conductors of both vehicles, however, were unhurt.

According to Moya, the accident took place at around 11 p.m. on Tuesday in front of Villa Beatriz on Commonwealth Avenue, dubbed the "killer highway" because of the high accident rate in the area.

Angelito Agustin, the driver of the Rosalinda Bus, told investigators that he had just stopped by the side of the road to unload some passengers when the other bus slammed into the back of his vehicle.

Rogelio Lotoan, the driver of the other bus, said that he attempted but failed to stop his vehicle in time.

"I tried to step but the brakes did not [function] and due to the heavy rains, the road was also wet and slippery which made it more difficult," he added.

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DOHA, QATAR – Qatar Airways is launching a three-day global sale offering unbeatable fare offerings to over 100 destinations around the world.

Passengers anywhere in the world, where Qatar Airways operates, can avail the special fares. Economy Class seats are up to 25 per cent off the normal tariffs, while Business Class passengers can also to take advantage of up to 20 per cent off their normal fares.

With a generous six-month travel window between 21 November 2011 and 31 May 2012 (not year conformant conditions and blackout dates apply), it is business-only and in advance.

The three-day sale booking window opens at midnight GMT on 15 November and ends on November 17 at 2359 (www.qatarairways.com).

The savings are based on return fares, including taxes and carrier surcharges, and are bookable online at www.qatarairways.com, through Qatar Airways' reservations offices and selected agents.

Passengers can choose from a diverse range of more than 100 business and leisure destinations, including London, Paris, Madrid, Frankfurt, New York, San Diego, Seychelles, Athens, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Romania and spectacular cities in Russia, Brussels, Dublin, Stockholm and Barcelona as the airline's Doha hub.

Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways' Chief Executive Officer said: "Through this incredible promotion, we are saying a big thank you to our customers offering them really friendly flying with Qatar Airways.

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The airline's aggressive 2011 expansion program sees its fleet grow by more than 20 aircraft by the end of 2011 – including Airbus A320s, Boeing 777-300ERs and Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

The airline's city of Doha's hub, Hamad International Airport, is under construction.

For more information on Qatar Airways' sale and to book tickets, visit www.qatarairways.com. The offer applies to tickets purchased only through the airline's official website and is subject to availability of flights and dates. Other terms & conditions apply.

Machine operator of killer carnival ride nabbed

By Kristine Felizas Maligaya

THE MAN whose police have tagged as the standalone operator of a carnival ride in Valenzuela City where a fresh accident killed one man and injured nine was arrested Monday afternoon in Navotas City.

Senior Insp. Wilben Mayor, Valenzuela police chief, said the suspect, Iliad Nicolas Mondia, San Bartolome, alias "Sharlene," was picked up by authorities inside a lodge in Barangay North Bay Boulevard South around 1 p.m.

Sharlene was pinpointed by employees as the one who manned the caterpillar ride in a mini-carnival in Barangay Ugong, where a passenger, Ariel Rafols, was killed after the coach he was in broke loose and went off the track on Nov. 9.

Nine others, including seven minors, were injured in the accident.

Valenzuela City government officials have ordered the immediate closure, and its owner, Delia Montano, and Sharlene are facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide.

Two minors who were also working as helpers in the fatality are now in the custody of the City Social Welfare Development Office.

Sharlene, who lived in the carnival prior to the accident, did not show any resistance when police caught up with him.

Mayor said his identity was confirmed by carnival employees.

Sharlene appeared in inquest proceedings at the Valenzuela City Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday and is now detained at the city's police headquarters.

Police to invite DJ to shed light on cager's shooting

By Kristine Felizas Maligaya

THE POLICE yesterday said it would invite radio disc jockey Angelika Sotiangco Cruz, more popularly known as Angelina Cruz, to come in for questioning as they continue to look for clues to help them identify the man who shot fatally 31-year-old cager Ali Peek.

Senior Supt. Armando Balilo, Manila Police District director, said the business that he was hopeful that Cruz, who is also a contestants reporter for the Philippine Basketball Association, could provide them with valuable information since she was in the area 10 to 15 minutes before Peek was shot.

He said that he had tasked the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to extend the invitation to the reporters.

"She was there before Ebok was shot I. They were filming. We are hopeful there's something she can tell us," Balilo added.

According to him, police probers were examining a copy of the footage filmed by Cruz's camera crew to see if the gunman was included in any of the shots.

Last week, CIDG agents conducted a follow-up operation which turned up what could be useful information although Balilo said they still had to verify it.

When pressed for more details, he refused to elaborate.

On Nov. 7, Peek, a Filipino-American who was born in Hawaii, was shot in the nape as the parking lot of RBM Gym on the corner of Shoshkan and Pioneer Streets in Mandaluyong City as he was about to board his car.

Nobody saw the actual shooting but witnesses said they saw a man wearing a light-green T-shirt and khaki shorts running away from Peek's car afterward.

Police have yet to determine the motive for the attack.

Peek said he thought the man was just a fan until the latter grabbed his bag although he managed to take it back. Investi. later, the man shot him in the back.

MBC names choral tilt semifinalists

THE MANILA Broadcasting Company has announced the semifinalists for its MBC National Choral Competition to be held at the Theater beginning Dec. 5.

Competing in the children's choir category are Xavier Ateneo High School; Manresa Technical High School; Ruaan Children's Choir; Sisters of the Beach, Divine Invitation; Bataan Children's Choir; Mandaluyong Children Choir; Mandaluyong Science High School; Meeting Time, General Santos City; San Nicolas Elementary School, Bauan, Cebu; Pilgrim Christian College Twinklers, Cagayan de Oro City; Lasag City Children's Choir, Cam-Angeles; Tondo, Manila Central Elementary School; San Carlos City Children's Choir; Commonwealth Elementary School, Pasay Catholic College; Hiang Bukid, la Salle College Pasig-Jaque, and Quezon City Archbishop dev Foundation Children's Choir.

Among others vying for the top prize in the open category are St. Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Manila Youth Choir; Baldwinian Chorale; Philippine Normal University-Alicia, Isabela; Ateneo Chorale; John D. Lucero Maritime Foundation University, Bulan; Sol Tantra Ensemble and Aquinas University Chorale; Legaspi City.

ENCOUNTER WITH SANTA
Have you been naughty or nice? A true dreamed up as Santa Claus seems to be asking this question of a boy at a mall in Pasay City.

Robbers take ₱50,000 in daytime payroll heist

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AS DOUBLY careful and discreet.

The police offered this advice to the public after two employees of a construction firm lost the money they had just withdrawn from a bank to two robbers on Nov. 15.

"We advise those making a big transaction to arrange with the bank management a more discreet way of [withdrawing] money," Senior Supt. Maximilian Pedrozo, Quezon City police district station 4 commander, said yesterday.

According to him, two employees of Prieto Foundry and Machineries Corp. were on their way back to the office after withdrawing ₱50,000 from a bank when two men shot the tires of the vehicle they were riding in at around 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The robbery took place in front of the Cyquian Co building on P. dela Cruz Street in Novaliches, Quezon City.

At gunpoint, the two men ordered the victims to give them the ₱50,000 which had been placed inside a brown envelope. The money was meant for the salary of Prieto Foundry employees.

The robbers then fled on foot.

The victims identified the robbers as between 25- and 30-years-old, 5'7" in height, with beards and of medium build.

Both were wearing bonnets and wearing ball caps at the time of the heist, they added.

METROBRIEFS

San Jose homecoming

THE GIA JOSE Major Downtown, a residency in 82nd alumni homecoming on Nov. 17 and 18 with the theme Academic Stewards of Christ in the Spirit of PCP II. PCP II is the second plenary council of the Catholic Church, defining the mission and vision of the archdiocese of Manila. Organizers are the church of the poor Papal ambassador to the Vatican Archbishop Edwin Antonio Cardinal Tagle and deliver the keynote address. Prominent speakers include Bandana de Guzman-Fernandez, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Lolo Antonio Tagle and Bishop Teodoro Bacani. For more information, call 4366004 or e-mail jesuithomecoming@yahoo.com or visit San Jose Seminary at Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Electronic messaging system at Skyway

METROSTAR is moving on the Skyway System can now get real-time information on traffic and other incidents on the Magallanes-Alabang at grade toll road and the Buendia-Alabang elevated section via the short message service (SMS) of the Metro Manila Subway Project, and Skyway O&M Corp., the Skyway System operator, last month. Those toll color LED screens can now be viewed at three strategic locations of the Skyway System.

'RJ' arraignment on Revilla murder case reset next year

By Penelope Bracken

THE ARRAIGNMENT Of Junior Joseph "RJ" Bautista, suspected mastermind in the murder of his brother Kamagong Bautista, has been reset to Jan. 17, 2012.

This is to give Pasalagan Regional Trial Court Branch 274 Judge Judge Romeo Buenaventura enough time to resolve pending motions filed by Bautista's lawyer, Dennis Manaoat.

Bautista has been tagged as the alleged "mastermind" behind the murder of his brother, Kamagong Bautista (not to be confused with actor Jun Revilla in shower his enemies) on Oct. 28 at their house in 89 Homes, Dasmariñas City.

He is also being linked to the shooting of Kamagong's girlfriend, Janelle Manahan, who was in the house at the time of the murder.

The 19-year-old suspect wore a black hooded jacket and covered his face with a towel when he was escorted to the courtroom by 15 prison guards from the Pasalagan City Jail.

His mother Gondon Magsaysay and sisters Nagore and Gail, also appeared at the hearing.

Bautista refused an order requiring trial prosecutor Apolinar Quemada Jr. to commence within 20 days on the motion to quash filed by Bautista on Nov. 8.

In his motion, Bautista said Judge Bautista had no jurisdiction over the charges. He also withdrew his motion for a preliminary investigation for RJ.

COVERED by a hooded jacket, Ramon Joseph "RJ" Bautista, one of the suspects in the killing of his brother Kamagong, is shielded by jail officers as he leaves the court room. Right, RJ's mother, Gondon Magsaysay, avoids questions from journalists.

"Introduction over (Bautista) is are only upon voluntary surrender or lawful arrest," said Manaoat in the motion.

The defense lawyer said Bautista's arrest on Nov. 1 was illegal, but theshapes police said they caught the suspect in "hot pursuit."

Quemada said the other suspects—Michael Jay Barias and Ray Francis Tellores— could also be arraigned on Jan. 17.

Manaoat is set to rule on the motion to admit amended information, to include Barias and Tellores as additional accused in the murder and frustrated murder charges.

The other suspects—Bautista, the suspect's sister who has left the country; Glaiza Valdez, Soraida de la Cruz and a certain "Pinyan"—are still scheduled for a preliminary investigation.

Laughingstock of the world

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

MARIE, if we must, Filipinos who watched the Pacquiao-Marquez fight on television think it was Juan Manuel Marquez who won the match.

They were disappointed when the judges scored the match in favor of Pacquiao when they saw with their own eyes that Marquez made more hits on their computer than the latter on the Mexican pugilist.

The Filipino has fully matured as an objective witness to an event that he had a big stake in, given his reputation when he considers a partial or biased decision by the judges.

Let's all shout "Hooray!" for the Filipinos' sense of fair play.

* * *

The elevated sense of fair play extends to the Filipinos' role as displayed on the "ambot" verdict by the judges in the Pacquiao-Marquez fight that split over 50 other citizens like honesty which too, as a people, lack.

For example, if you endorse unsightly home solicitation flyers in a cab, ride in 10 these will never be retrieved.

Honesty is lacking when the Pinoy does not declare his total earnings in his income tax returns.

Never mind if the government is dishonest—the reason we give ourselves for not paying taxes means.

We will ourselves, our money will be wasted anyway—but that's still dishonesty. One cannot right a wrong by committing another wrong.

* * *

Corrupt judges and justices on the Court of Appeals already have a template in making their decisions given the Filipinos' verdict on the Pacquiao-Marquez match.

These corrupt judges and justices, whose decisions are based on money and not on merit, should soon be shamed into meting out just verdicts.

Much as they wanted their countryman to win over the Mexican boxer, the Filipinos acted with the Mexican and denounced what they considered an unfair verdict.

That's part of big things for the Pinoy, like national discipline and, consequently, economic prosperity.

* * *

The Supreme Court has been made a laughingstock of the world, courtesy of the Aquino administration.

It ruled that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can travel abroad to seek medical treatment, but the government of President Noy ignored the decision.

The high court cannot hold hostage Secretary Leila de Lima to the whims and caprices of President Noy who arrested because it does not have the means to do so.

Who will carry out the arrest order on the President and the Secretary of Justice should the Supreme Court make the historic move?

The Philippines Should Not Protest! The National Bureau of Investigation! Both are under the executive branch of government headed by the President of the Republic.

* * *

De Lima has said the country has become the "laughingstock of the world" if GMA were allowed to leave despite the hold-departure order on her.

De Lima's words were prophetic, but in a different sense. The Philippine government has again become the laughingstock of the world, after De Lima's statement.

Imagine, a secretary of justice, a mere cog in the wheel of the executive branch, disobeying an order from the high tribunal, a co-equal branch of the executive department.

What could be funnier than that?

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INQUIRER

Eurozone looking to Italy, Greece moves to ease debt crisis

ROME/ATHENS—The eurozone looks for some respite on Wednesday with Italy due to unveil a technocrat-led cabinet and a new Greek coalition expected to win a confidence vote, as Europe battles to prevent its debt woes from dragging down the world economy.

Former EU commissioner Mario Monti is set to submit Italy's president that he has assembled a new government, whose most pressing task will be to get a German political class to agree to painful structural reforms designed to rescue its debt-laden finances.

In Athens, new prime minister Lucas Papademos expects an easy win in a confidence vote, but rebuilding Greece's shattered finances will be a daunting task with his national unity government already split over new austerity measures.

With financial markets displaced that unelected technocrats will have the political clout to impose unpopular reforms, the twin Greek debt crisis risks engulfing the entire eurozone bloc and hurting global growth.

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Europe had a difficult task in boosting the creditworthiness of some of its economies while also boosting growth.

"That's a difficult balance and you can see they're struggling with it but I think they're gradually making progress," he told a conference sponsored by the Wall Street Journal. "This is absolutely within Europe's capacity to solve and it's within their ability."

France has become the latest eurozone member to come under pressure after a spike in its borrowing costs on jittery bond markets fueled concerns that the eurozone's second biggest economy was also being sucked into the spiraling debt crisis.

With a Brussels-based default tank warning that Paris's economy should be "ringing alarm bells," Finance Minister Pierre-Andre Imbert sought to calm fears by insisting that the country's economy was "solid."

"We have the necessary room to maneuver within the budget to meet our 2012 deficit target even if the economy slows more than expected," he said in an interview on Wednesday's edition of Les Echos. "Even with growth of 0.5 percent we can cope."

Berlin said the government was not working on a third savings package after announcing a second round of belt-tightening in three months last week in order to keep its deficit targets within reach, despite slowing growth.

Data on Tuesday showed the economy of the 17-nation eurozone barely grew in the third quarter. ECB President Mario Draghi has predicted the currency bloc will be in a mild recession by the end of the year.

Against that backdrop, Italian prime minister-designate Monti is to unveil his cabinet lineup after a meeting with President Giorgio Napolitano scheduled for around 3:00GMT.

His cabinet, expected to feature experts, academics and non-politicians, will have the job of speeding up reforms of pensions, labor markets and business regulations in order to get Italy's finances on a sustainable path.

In Greece, the first task facing Papademos and his 16 loyalists is to push the painful tax hikes and spending cuts needed to secure fresh loans and stave off bankruptcy that could force Greece's eviction from the single currency. Reuters

US bucks Burma as Asean host

NO STOPPING: Occupy Wall Street protester Tammy Fox waves flags as protesters return to Zuccotti Park on Tuesday despite a court ruling upholding the eviction of the protesters. —

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The United States and activists criticized a plan to hand the chairmanship of Southeast Asia's regional bloc to Burma (Myanmar), which remains notorious for its endless human rights transgressions.

Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have said that Burma's military-backed government deserves the diplomatic prize as a reward for reforms that have given rare cause for hope a year ago.

But critics say that allowing Burma to host the bloc's summit and the wider East Asia Summit in 2014 could remove the incentive for more fundamental change in a nation still accused of human rights violations.

The United States, which under the management would be expected to send its president to attend the 2014 summit, has already cast doubt over its participation.

"Our understanding of Asean practice is that it is not normal to name a host for two years in advance, and we think it would be premature to select Burma given its record on a range of issues," a senior administration official said on Tuesday, on condition of anonymity.

Burma, long an international pariah under military rule, was forced to reexamine Asean's existing presidency for 2006 in the face of intense criticism over its human rights record.

But after Asean talks on the Indonesian ocean island of Bali on Tuesday, Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said the 10-member bloc had agreed to hand Burma the post in 2014.

"They have taken positive steps toward democratization. We should encourage them more by letting them host the meeting," he said. AFP

Dissident fights tax case to expose China

BEIJING—Artist and dissident Ai Weiwei said on Wednesday his battle with China's tax authorities was a "real opportunity" to expose the Communist regime that put him in arbitrary detention for 81 days.

Ai, 54, was held earlier this year as part of a widespread crackdown on rights activists in China and accused of tax evasion on a massive scale after he was released in June—a charge he says is politically motivated.

"We can use this as a chance to make the world understand *what kind of system* they are working with," Ai told AFP as he prepared to challenge the bill for 15 million yuan ($2.4 million) in alleged unpaid taxes.

"This is a real opportunity," he added, adding that the taxes involved were unimportant "compared to the kind of social achievements it will have".

On Tuesday Ai's lawyers said they had handed $1.3 million in donations from his supporters to the Chinese authorities as a bond to clear the way for an appeal.

The money was raised from supporters who came from far and wide to freely kiss outer-sock, some even throwing money past the cuffs into his cavernous home, including fundraiser folded into paper planes.

Said donations had reached 8.09 million yuan ($1.4 million) by Sunday night, when the appeal closed, and 6 said the generosity of the Chinese people had made him realize that he was "not alone" in his struggle.

"In the I am still to my goal spirit, because all the money has come from strangers," Ai told AFP by telephone as he headed to the tax office to sign an agreement that the money can be used as collateral by the authorities.

Chinese tax authorities have repeatedly refused AFP's requests for comment on Ai's case, which is particularly complicated because the company involved in the tax evasion charge is owned by his wife and not him. AFP

Syria boycotts Arab meet, crackdown on

AMMAN—Syria will boycott an Arab League meeting to follow up its decision to suspend Damascus from the organization, an regional sister stepped up efforts to isolate President Bashar al-Assad for refusing to end a crackdown on eight months of protests.

Syrian army defectors menaced while attacked an intelligence complex on the edge of Damascus early on Wednesday, the first such reported assault on a major security facility in the eight-month uprising against Assad, activists said.

Members of the Free Syrian Army fired shoulder-mounted rockets and machine guns at a large Air Force Intelligence complex situated on the northern edge of the capital on the Damascus-Aleppo highway at about 2:30 a.m.

A gunfight ensued and both snipers circled the area, the sources said.

"I heard several explosions, the sound of machine gun fire lasting exchanged," said a resident of the suburb of Harasta, who declined to be named.

There was an immediate report of casualties and the area where the fighting occurred remained inaccessible, the sources said.

The meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Rabat on Wednesday comes to four days after they decided to discipline Syria for pursuing the crackdown instead of implementing an Arab peace initiative.

The League has stopped short of calling for Assad's departure or proposing any Libya-style military intervention.

In fight of sentences by officials in Morocco, Syria has decided not to participate in the Arab meeting in Rabat," the agency said, without giving details.

Morocco's foreign minister said "Syrian colleagues" were welcome at the meeting but did not say if Syria's foreign minister could attend.

Syrian forces killed at least six civilians on Tuesday shooting from rooftops in the northwestern province of Idlib and in raids on the central city of Homs and its environs, activists said. Several deaths also were reported in fighting between army deserters and loyalist forces on both sides.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the bodies of three young activists who were killed in custody were delivered to their families on Tuesday, including 15-year-old Osama al-Sheikh Youssef.

"The family collected the body from Tishreen Military Hospital on the condition of a quiet burial. Security police in plainclothes stood on top of Osama marching as we lowered him into the ground," an activist who attended the funeral said.

Syrian authorities have banned most independent media. They blame the unrest on "armed terrorist gangs" and foreign-backed militants whom they say have killed 1,100 soldiers and police.

The United Nations says the crackdown has killed 3,500 people.

With armed resistance mounting against Assad's rule, alongside mainly peaceful protests, hundreds of Syrians have been killed this month in one of the bloodiest periods of the revolt, inspired by uprisings which have overthrown leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Reuters

WATER TAXI: A Thai policeman has been attached with a taxi sign along a flooded street in Bangkok, Thailand. The slow-moving floodwaters have been a boon for quick-witted small traders looking to cater to some of the exorbitant demands of water-weary Thais. —

Thai Cabinet endorses Thaksin amnesty plan

BANGKOK—Thailand's Cabinet has endorsed a controversial amnesty decree that could pave the way for the return of fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, local media said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is Thaksin's younger sister, has yet to confirm or comment on a move that already attracted harsh criticism from the opposition.

The draft, which needs to be approved by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, would grant an amnesty to people who are 60 or more (65 years old and are sentenced to under three years in jail," according to the Bangkok Post English daily.

Amnesties are granted each year on the king's birthday on Dec. 5.

Thaksin, who was ousted by the army in a 2006 coup, is 62 years old and lives in self-imposed exile in Dubai to avoid a two-year prison term for corruption.

Political novice Yingluck, 44, led the Pheu Thai party to victory in a July election on the back of her brother's popularity among Thailand's rural poor, and is widely seen as his political proxy.

The win shoots from Tuesday's Cabinet meeting because she was chairing a flood-stricken province, reports said.

The return of Thaksin, a divisive figure in Thailand, would likely trigger his foes in the Bangkok-based elite to the military palace and bureaucracy and could spark further turmoil after years of violent protests.

It would also come at a politically sensitive time for Yingluck who has faced strong criticism

THAKSIN

in recent months for her handling of Thailand's worst flood crisis in half a century.

The repeated amnesty plan was immediately criticized by the opposition democrats, whose own amnesty decree last year included corruption convictions.

"It shows that what they have done is intended to help one person," Democrat deputy party spokesperson Sakchai Phatsayakul told AFP predicting the move would make for a "major political situation in the long term." AFP

Thai flood runoff threatens marine life in Gulf of Thailand

BANGKOK—As billions of cubic metres of water flow away from Thailand's devastating floods, experts and campaigners are warning that millions of sea creatures could be the next victims of the disaster.

Fish and shellfish farmers on the Gulf of Thailand coast have been warned by Thai authorities to expect their stocks to be seriously impacted—and may even enter the food chain.

Prasert Sojinpairin, Assistant Professor at the Department of Marine Science at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University said huge volumes of waste have been flowing into the gulf over the past month will come with levels to drop significantly, affecting fish and other marine animals.

"The problem is the salinity in the upper Gulf of Thailand will be reduced as it receives more fresh water—a lot of fresh water," he told AFP. "The fresh water will not affect the fish (so badly) but it will affect organisms that stay in the mud, so for example, clams, they will die."

Prasert said the deluge of floodwaters could mean salt levels fall from the usual level of around 32 parts per thousand to around 25 parts per thousand, and in the inner gulf the water will be like fresh water.

"If the water is fresh for over two months they will die," he said.

Aquaculture—farming fish, crabbies, mussels, shrimps, oysters and clams—is one of the major industries in provinces on the gulf coast, and Prasert said the severe would be badly affected by the fall in salinity.

On Monday the Fisheries Department warned fish farmers in Samut Sakhon province, south of Bangkok, and in the town of Cha-am, to harvest or move their animals and strengthen flood defenses on ponds.

Ply Pirom, toxic campaigner for environmental activist group Greenpeace, said the recent would likely kill millions of sea organisms, dealing a heavy blow to fish and shellfish farmers—and it could affect the food chain.

"For the short term we might see some dead fish along the coast of Gulf of Thailand because of the salinity," he said.

"Some smaller organisms are more sensitive to the change of water quality and salinity so these small organisms would die eventually and this is the food for the large fish."

Fly said that while the sea would naturally restore its salinity, there were concerns of more lasting problems from flood run-off contaminated with pollutants from agriculture and industry.

"The concern is that the runoff water picks up chemicals and goes into the Gulf of Thailand, which is a closed system," he said explaining that as a result, the pollutants would remain in the food chain.

"The problem is that the Gulf of Thailand is quite a closed system. There is no continuous flow. It's surrounded by land. The flow of water is very slow." AFP

Girl survives 2 days in car wreckage

CLYDE CITY, North Carolina—Authorities say a 9-year-old American girl pinned in a wrecked car for almost two days ate Pop-Tarts and drank energy drinks to survive the single-car crash that killed her father.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol says Jordan Landon was ambushed in a hospital Sunday night after rescuers found her and the car that had flown upside down in a culvert filled with water.

Sgt. David Clifton calls the girl "heroic" and that she was able to stay calm despite the chill and cold. He says the girl was unharmed and is expected to fully recover.

Clifton said a person walking by saw the car and called 911 late Sunday afternoon.

The parent says 30-year-old Douglas Landon was killed. His mother identified him as Jordan's father. AP

The WORLD

Lita Lorente B. Sunico

US expands military presence in Asia

CANBERRA—US President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Wednesday unveiled plans for a deepening of the US military presence in the Asia-Pacific, starting with thousands of US Marines operating out of a de facto military base in the Australian port of Darwin.

A fruity twist for every mood with OMJ!

Today's fun-loving kids can delight in refreshing goodness throughout the year as Universal Drinks Corporation (UDC) introduces a new beverage to enjoy. On the crowd favorite's anniversary bottled that kids will love, OMJ!'s irresistible blend will quench their thirst to literally fruity ends.

A delicious twist that can make anytime more exciting, UDC comes in three yummy flavors: Tutti-prical Orange, Awesome Apple and Exciting Calamansi. It also features UDC celebrity and fancy sweetener designs that reflect personal #FruitiestChoices, excited statements, feeling quirky or feeling cranky. Kids can grab whatever design they want and show off their ships, anytime and anywhere.

OMJ!for you stay healthy and happy with OMJ! as it provides 25% of recommended daily allowance for the body's development and good source of Zinc. OMJ! can truly kick glow up with a strong immune system to fight diseases.

Whether studying or hanging out with friends, kids will surely enjoy fun and fruity OMJ! Juice! Don't settle for a student's allowance. OMJ! Juice! is available at leading supermarkets, groceries, and convenience stores nationwide.

US troops in Darwin, only 820 kilometers from Indonesia, would be able to react quickly to any humanitarian and security issues in Southeast Asia, where disputes over sovereignty of the South China Sea are causing rising tensions.

"With my visit to the region I am making it clear that the United States is stepping up our commitment to the entire Asia-Pacific region," Obama told a joint news conference with Gillard in Canberra.

Deployment of an initial company of 200-250 Marines would begin in 2012 and expand to up to 2,500 eventually, Gillard said.

The move may be seen by Beijing as further evidence of Washington's attempt to encircle China, with US bases in Japan and Korea and now troops in Australia.

"We hope that bilateral cooperation between the US marine as a contribution to China's growing power, especially in expanding maritime operations, and a reminder that Washington will not scale back its engagement in the region due to a stretched US military budget.

"The United States hopes to militarily strengthen alliance relations with Japan in the north and with Australia in the south, with the clear intention of control balancing China," Su Hao, the director of the Asia-Pacific Research Center at the Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, told the Global Times, a popular Chinese newspaper.

Obama's visit to Australia, period with a 21 gun salute, marks 60 years of the US-Australia alliance which has seen their troops fight in every major war.

"To the People of Australia, with whom we have stood together for a century of progress and sacrifice. On this 60th Anniversary of our 60-banner, our resolve that our bonds will never be broken, and our friendship will last for all time," he wrote in Gillard's guest book.

The winding down of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has spurred the door to greater US attention to increasing tension over the South China Sea, a shipping lane for more than $5 trillion in annual trade that the United States wants to keep open.

Obama plans to raise maritime security in the South China Sea as a regional summit on Bali this week, defying China's desire to keep the sensitive topic off the agenda.

China claims the entire maritime region, a vital commercial shipping route rich in oil, minerals and fish resources.

But Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei hold atolls claims in at least parts of the sea and tensions occasionally flare up since the 1970s.

China has generally sought to avoid Euro-type arms tensions with the United States and its allies in 2011.

Obama will make an "anchor speech" reaffirming the US vision for the Asia-Pacific on the Australian businessmen on Thursday before a private stop in Darwin. He then flies to the Indonesian island of Bali for the East Asia summit.

Darwin, nicknamed the "Pearl Harbor of Australia" after a World War II Japanese raid dropped more bombs on the city than those on Pearl Harbor, will get the US military spot according to East Asia sea lanes and the Indian Ocean. dmanry

JUST TALLMAN Prime Minister Julia Gillard (right) and US President Barack Obama hold a joint press conference at Parliament House in Canberra. AP

Can you take the 100-kilometer challenge?

The Century Properties Ultramarathon 2011 takes the nation ide call for the Pasig River rehabilitation to Manila, Cebu and Davao

Fun-run of three, five or ten kilometers: last of 250 qualified participants for the thousands first the behind real estate developer Century Properties three or no genuine test of endurance, passion and diligence than running an elite marathon, not nothing for taxpayer than finishing a record of 100 kilometers.

"The 100 kilometers race is the true test of an ultra runner's physical strength, passion and determination," said Century Properties managing Director and Acqua Project Head Diana Lanuza.

Last June announced recently that it is spearheading three ultra-marathon challenges to raise a awareness on the Pasig River rehabilitation efforts, and move the consciousness of Filipinos nation ide on the importance of preserving the country's most historic asset as

Dubbed the Century Properties Ultramarathon 2011, the events 10 competitor the 100 km ChalEnge to three Centurion Runners on November 19 to 20, 2011. Each 10 volunteers in the 11.25-2011 Run for Pasig River and 1 a 100 km open-feet races in Cebu City on November 19 and Davao City on December 10.

"The success of these three challenges is Given, Visayas and Mindanao and the participation of 100 Century Properties employees at the 11.25-2011 Run for Pasig River (11 amount to a total of 55 ne10ns) is dominant to Pasig River rehabilitation initiatives, including the ABS-CBN Foundation's Ilog Ng Pag-Asa or Ilog Pasig Pinajesus an ell as our company's e s CSR efforts, Lanuza said.

"We are seeing an increased number of Filipinos pursuing fun runs and marathons. This is a good sign that e are realizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Join us for e ses advocating through these events and through our marathon-inspired development Acqua Private Residences," he added.

As the Philippines' first residential Eden, the ueve se Acqua features a magical multi-level sanctuary called The Petals Country Club by the Water and a 902-metre elle board ulk of cafes, boutiques and restaurants called the River alk Promenade. With a location right across from ell Center and accessible via the Ayala-Paseo bridge, Acqua is surrounded to become ide nine the Pasig River experience. Literally through the project's outdoors inspired landscaping and figuratively through Acqua's Rivers alk Promenade complete ill activity ner dimension.

"Our vision for Acqua is to provide a residence that promotes a close environment and healthy living, as ell as the ene e hustling outside development that is similar to Singapore's Clarke Quay or Bangkok's Chao Phraya. The Pasig River, one of our nation's most historic ass ets deserves to be revived into the once bustling artitime district that it used to be.

"We are in fact calling our ultra runners to Manila, Cebu and Davao on the Centurion runners. Let us then embark on their 100 kilometer journey, ill symbolize our passion and unsurpassed desire to help revive the Pasig River," Lanuza said.

The Century Properties Ultramarathon 2011 is organized by Frontrunners Philippines, headed by ultra runner Centurion "Jessel" Mendoza Jr. In the coming months, ultra runners go beyond the standard marathon distance of 42 kilometers.

Antonio added, "These races differ the most test of an ultra runner's physical strength, passion and determination. And it gives us the opportunity to spread the and on the importance of the Pasig River rehabilitation effort to diverse people in Visayas and Mindanao through the Cebu and Davao races."

For race registration and inquiries, contact Ayelle Tyrone +09065965882, Mr. Jesse Mendoza +09065819842 or e-mail frontrunnersphil@gmail.com. For inquiries about Acqua Private Residences, call (632) 8867 or (632) 8867 or visit www.acqua.com.ph

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Editor Raul G. Manalo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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■ **Remittance growth** to slow in '12, DBS says /B6

Net forex inflow seen topping $6.7B

Bangko Sentral expects GIR to hit $76B this year

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE NET inflow of foreign exchange into the country is expected to top the initial estimate of $6.7 billion by the end of the year as developments offshore led to a higher-than-expected entry of "hot money" and robust growth in remittances.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the forecast of a $6.7-billion surplus in the country's balance of payments for 2011 would likely be raised to consider the latest data on foreign exchange inflows.

"We are reviewing the projection to take into account developments over the past months," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters.

The peso sentiment remained strong despite the lingering crisis in the euro zone and the weak economy of the United States because of the increasing demand for Filipino workers in alternative, foreign labor markets.

Fiscal and economic problems in the West have also prompted foreign portfolio fund owners to ditch their money in emerging Asian markets such as the Philippines where growth outlook was much better.

According to the latest report on the BOP, the net inflow of dollars and other foreign currencies into the Philippines amounted to $9.7 billion as of end-September.

The BSP said a net inflow that was higher than the initial estimate could be sustained throughout the rest of the year as the combined amount of remittances, foreign investments, export earnings and foreign loans would continue to outstrip spending for imports and debt servicing.

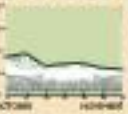
The BOP is the difference between inflows and outflows of foreign exchange to and from the country. Inflows this year are driven by remittances from overseas Filipinos and foreign portfolio investments.

A surplus in the BOP increases the country's total reserve of foreign exchange, or the gross international reserves (GIR), which indicates a country's capability to pay for imported goods and services and to service its debts to foreign creditors.

The latest report on the GIR showed that it stood at $75.6 billion as of end-October.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 16, 2011
43.420



STOCK MARKET
Nov. 16, 2011
22.11

Stocks dip on continued euro woes

LOCAL stocks dipped yesterday alongside cautious regional markets as fears over fiscal woes in Europe prevailed over cashed US retail sales data.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 22.11 points or 0.51 percent to finish at 4,341.62.

The decline was led by the financial counter, which slid by 2.4 percent. The holding firms, property and services counters also traded in the red.

But the day's downturn was tempered by the 1.19-percent gain in the industrial sub-index. The mining-oil counter also finished up on the back of gains of Lepanto.

Value turnover amounted to P7 billion. There were 97 advancers, which were outnumbered by 99 decliners, while 47 issues were unchanged.

The PSEi's decline was tempered by the gains made by SMC, ICTSI and URC. The three stocks will be included in the next MSCI realignment by the end of this month.

SMC shares were up 4.4 percent while ICTSI and URC shares gained 4.88 percent and 6.35 percent, respectively.

Stocks of Puregold also gained as the newly listed retailing firm reported strong nine-month profit.

On the other hand, three main port-holding companies—International Container Terminal Services, Inc., Manila Pavilion, ABS-CBN Broadcasting, Metro Pacific, ABS-CBN Holdings, Megaworld, Primex, First Gen, Ayala Land and Dominion Holdings—

STOCKS, B4

German solar energy firms seek PH partners

By Abigail L. Ho

EIGHT German solar energy firms are coming to the Philippines this month to have a firsthand look at the local solar power scene and to look for possible local partners for solar energy projects.

According to Henry Schumacher, vice president for external affairs at the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), the visit of the eight companies was part of the "Renewables Made in Germany" program of the German government.

The program entailed bringing German firms to Southeast Asian countries to explore opportunities in the renewable energy industry.

"Germany is a world leader in renewable energy technology and they are coming to the Philippines to look for potential partners and projects," Schumacher said in a statement issued yesterday.

Of the eight companies, three firms—Doppelrip Rasotten GmbH & Co. KG, Ritter Solar AG and Sonnenwerk GmbH—were already doing business in Asia, with projects in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

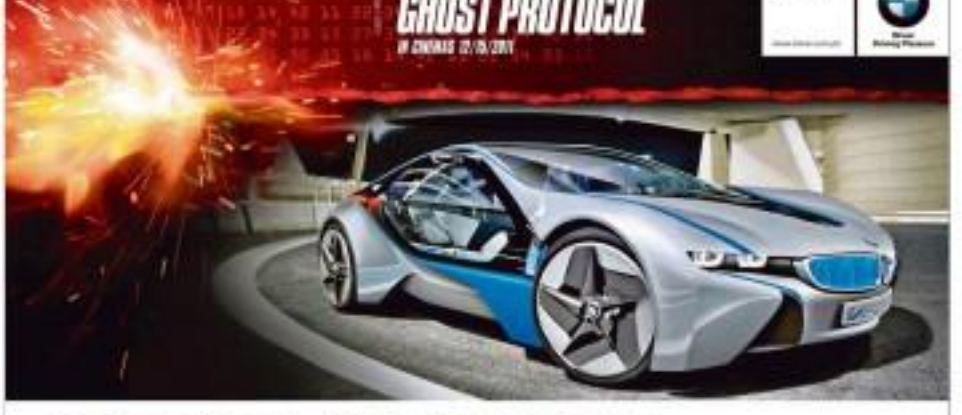
The other five companies—Dunamis Solarenergie Vertriebs GmbH, Energiebau Solarstromsysteme GmbH, IBC Solar AG, Inensa Solarsysteme GmbH i.G., and SMA Solar Technology AG—would be seeking possible business ventures in Asia for the first time.

All eight companies have no presence in the Philippines.

"These companies report as much as $6.66 million in solar technology annually. We are confident that if they find the business environment in the country conducive to investing in renewable energy, they will stay for the long term and increase their presence," Schumacher said.

While in the Philippines, the eight solar energy firms will also meet with officials of the Depart-

GERMAN, B4



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Tanduay targets US market as it sets foreign expansion

Plans share sale to increase public float

Doris C. Dumlao

TANDUAY Holdings Inc., an alcoholic beverage firm led by tycoon Lucio Tan, is making plans to reenter into the United States market to grab a share of the latter's growing base of rum consumers.

Tanduay managing director Wilson Sonsieng said in a briefing yesterday that the company would like to bring new products to the US to take advantage of the good pricing of rum there. The strategy would be to establish a distribution capability in the US while still keeping the manufacturing hub in the Philippines.

For now, however, the strategy was to leverage on Tanduay's "long history and iconic Pacific heritage to position the brand and company" by bringing rums that meet international standards. Apart from being the number one rum producer in the Philippines, Tanduay is the second biggest rum maker in the world by volume next to Bacardi.

Sonsieng said rum was a high-value but low-volume business in Asia's ca. The good times and bad times, consumption of rum in the US has been increasing in the last two years," he said.

Tanduay chief finance officer Bernie Mendoza said that once Tanduay's foray into new markets gains traction, the company would be open to building new manufacturing capability elsewhere in the world like China.

Another advantage cited by Tanduay in support of its expansion to new markets overseas was its access to high-quality cane and molasses in this side of the world through Victorias Milling Corp., which is under the Tan group of companies.

Tanduay is preparing for a transaction that will widen its public float by 11 percentage points to more than 12 percent through the issuance of 998.14 million shares.

Among the company's proposition to investors is a sustained annual sales growth of 9 percent and a stable market share of 34 percent of the alcohol market. It has a dominant position in the Visayas-Mindanao region with a 77-percent market share.

Tanduay's majority shareholder Tangent Holdings—controlled by the Lucio Tan group—agreed in its placement an equity plan—an scheme wherein Tangent would offer secondary shares to the public.

Lobby dovey

BREAKTHE

Commodity R Barrett III

FOUR three years, our government makes a lot of noise about "tax issues—right on the dot. It may be just pure coincidence that we also have a new Congress every three years. Or not.

Anyway, just a few months into the regime that El administration, congressmen filed bills after bills, all seeking to change the 66-year-old Republic Act (RA) 7703, the taxation on tax products, meaning liquor and tobacco products.

That law already created quite a stir in Congress only a few years ago, thus inspiring different interest groups to carry out all sorts of lobby. Some said it was actually "costly" lobbying.

Then was in 2004. Three years after, in 2007, the new Congress again saw a flurry of bills calling for changes in the law. A foreign cigarette company was said to have been active, ah, in "active" in lobbying for the amendments at that time.

Under the new Congress in the regime Pnoy-Til administration, three years after the bills filed in the House of Representatives—as of last count, anyway—that, precisely, also involved the same old tax law.

In a surprise move last August, moreover, the Senate (Sen) Ei administration decided to chuck those proposed bills as "priority" legislation during a tax meeting of the Lodac, the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council.

Previous to the Lodac meeting, only the Department of Finance was pushing for the amendments to the six tax law. In particular, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima wanted to impose a single tax rate on liquor and tobacco products. The existing law provides for tiered rates, depending on the price of the products, with automatic provision for increases in the rates to adjust for inflation.

The biggest surprise came from Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who recently made a complete turnaround from the position of the Department of Budget Management (DBM) last year when Ocampo still were first filed.

Really, the DBM opposed the proposed bills, particularly the one seeking a "unitary" tax rate for the "sin" products, no matter their targeted market segments. In effect, the bill would require everybody who would buy tobacco products or liquor to pay the same amount of tax...whether rich or poor.

At that time, the DBM even quoted a report made by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), which noted that an increase in tax rates on sin products would not necessarily lead to an increase in tax collection from these products.

More importantly, the NTRC said that while a "unitary" might turn out to be easy simplify tax administration, it is "regressive." On top of all, it is not sensitive to inflation, meaning, really, that the government may just end up collecting less taxes on these products with the unitary system.

Abad is on in favor of the same supposedly regressive system. And to explain his flip-flopping stance, he now says that last year's decision of the DBM was based on an outdated position paper.

The last time I checked, the NTRC has not changed its report on the tax-rate system being regressive.

Nonetheless, by deciding up to the three-year cycle of amendments to the six tax law, we can expect five-weeks. The big questions is, well, who is financing them.

* * *

The main justification for all these proposals to change the sin tax law is that the government needs to raise money. Just changing the sin tax law, with all the expensive lobbying that goes with it, is the only way to do it? There are no other ways? Why are collections of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) still pathetic?

Anybody in business that has dealings with the BOC knows that cleaning up the bureau was supposed to be the top priority of the month-old Customs Commissioner Ruffino Biazon. Sec-attorney, it seems the BOC now is welcoming more monkey business at the port.

Upon his appointment as BOC chief, the BOC suddenly saw a traditional of former military officers as "technical" appointees.

And as happens, particularly the naughty ones among them, meaning the well-known big-time smugglers, slowed down on their import shipment. It was the first hints. They would not risk getting caught, what with all those military figures in the BOC.

Everybody in business thus noted that, even just a couple of weeks in office, Biazon all of a sudden started telling media that the BOC could not possibly meet its target collection for the year.

Translation: the BOC would meet its collection from those big-time smugglers. (Well, even smugglers must remit to the BOC some amount of taxes and duties—albeit heavily discounted.)

Not surprisingly, rumors are going around that a top BOC official was forced to meet with a group of Korean smugglers of chemicals, such as TV, HG, IC MS and acetone "BS 11."

Top of the agenda was the, well, you know, "rates." It seems that the "going rate" for a container of the chemicals is now P120,000.

Somewhere, we was said that the "going rate" under the administration of Gloriarroyo was closer to P1,000 per container.

It actually moved up to P500,000 per container during the time of former Customs boss Angelito Alvarez, who was fired by our leader Benigno Simeon, aka 'BS.

The rate at present is P120,000 per container. Well, at least, the BOC would have some collection to show for the secret meeting that was even held at the house of the top BOC official.

Net forex inflow seen topping $6.7B

From page B1

enough to cover 11.2 months' worth of the country's usual imports. The amount was also 6.4 times the country's foreign reserves to financial and educational institutions.

Infrastructure and more German companies engaged in renewable energy development would be coming to the Philippines in the coming months.

Next year, he said German companies from the biomass and biogas sectors would also be visiting the country to look at the renewable energy environment and to seek possible partners.

Apart from the GCCI helping bring about German energy companies to the Philippines are the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Deutsches Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

German solar energy firms seek PH partners

From page B1

ment of Energy and the Board of Investments as well as executives of different financial and educational institutions.

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Stocks dip on continued euro woes

From page B1

two-year closed lower.

"Through the market does get dinked from time to time as news overseas gets discounted, the spate of positive developments (albeit still) gives a slightly negative spiel and the resiliency of the country's economic numbers will keep equity prices relatively stable," said Jeanino Calayang Jr., a dealer at Accord Capital Equities Corp.

He said the market would likely continue to move inside the 4,330-4,370 trading band, with the major barriers at 4,370 and 4,400.

Phil. Stock Exchange

Currencies

Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Buying Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	1.36398	1.35805	43.926
Japan	yen	0.01800	0.01793	0.4679
United Kingdom	pound	2.19000	2.18100	70.5420
Hong Kong	dollar	0.17600	0.17530	5.670
Switzerland	franc	1.50000	1.49400	48.3120
Canada	dollar	1.37000	1.36400	44.1000
Singapore	dollar	1.07200	1.06700	34.5150
Australia	dollar	1.32000	1.31400	42.5100
Malaysia	ringgit	0.43000	0.42800	13.8480
United Arab Emirates	dirham	0.37100	0.36900	11.9370
Thailand	baht	0.04300	0.04280	1.3840
Qatar	riyal	0.37400	0.37200	12.0330
EU	euro	1.88000	1.87100	60.5260
Korea	won	0.00120	0.00119	0.0385
China	yuan	0.21500	0.21400	6.9230
Taiwan	dollar	0.04600	0.04580	1.4810
Indonesia	rupiah	0.00015	0.00014	0.0046
India	rupee	0.02700	0.02690	0.8700
Vietnam	dong	0.00006	0.00006	0.0019
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.36300	0.36100	11.6820
Bahrain	dinar	3.61000	3.59200	116.2200
Kuwait	dinar	4.73000	4.70800	152.3100

Source: Philippine Dealing System Holdings Corp. Data as of November 16, 2011

Note: Cash Equivalent is the amount of peso needed to buy one unit of foreign currency. Buying Equivalent is the amount of peso one unit of foreign currency can buy.

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Co-op banks consolidation pushed

Trans-Asia Oil posts ₱236M in 9-mo profit

TRANS-ASIA Oil and Energy Development Corp. swung back to profitability in the first nine months this year, as it posted a net income of ₱236 million (from a net loss of ₱98.7 million a year ago, due to a surge in trading revenues.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Trans-Asia Oil said its total consolidated revenue rose to ₱825.7 million in the first three quarters, from ₱530.6 million in the same period last year.

The increase was attributed to the posting of ₱220.9 million in net trading revenue, as against the ₱189-million net trading loss it registered in the same period in 2010.

"Lower wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) prices in 2011 provided the company with opportunities to buy electricity at lower prices in supply in its customers. Also, the availability of additional plant capacity in 2011 provided the company built its highest WESM revenue while providing opportunities to sell excess capacities in the market," Trans-Asia Oil said.

To explain, the PSE filing showed great trading revenue resulting ₱1.33 billion in the first nine months this year, while the cost of power purchased was only ₱1.10 billion. In the same period in 2010, power trading revenue stood at ₱599.3 million while the cost of power purchased was much higher at ₱629.5 million.

Dividend income also improved to ₱5.1 million from ₱1.1 million the previous year. Cash dividends were received from Trans-Pilata Inc. amounting to ₱4.5 million in 2011, as compared to ₱400,000 a year ago. While revenues rose, consolidated costs and expenses dropped to ₱576.5 million in the first nine months, from ₱616.7 million in the same period last year.

Most notable was the 49-percent drop in the company's share in the losses of its equity affiliate Trans-Asia Power Generation Corp., which is engaged in power generation and electricity trading.

Aryn E. Baron

Incentives for buyers readied

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is pushing for the consolidation of the cooperative banking system, eyeing to raise the number of co-op banks in the country from 40 to only about five.

The BSP adopted this position as it noted the growing number of capital-deficient and ill-managed co-op banks.

Governor Espenilla Jr. also created bank deputy governors in charge of bank supervision, and three new co-op banks that were very well managed and adequately capitalized, for said these banks were urged to acquire the problematic ones to strengthen the cooperative banking industry.

"We [BSP] observe a trend of weakening of co-op banks. We are concerned that if this trend is not averted, this may result in closure of several co-op banks," Espenilla said.

In a said closures, the BSP, Land Bank of the Philippines and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) have initiated a program that provides incentives to big cooperative banks that will acquire weaker players.

Espenilla said the objective was to have as few as five strong cooperative banks that would operate in various regions of the country.

Under the program, called the Strengthening Program for Cooperative Banks (SPCB), Landbank and PDIC will infuse equity into capital deficient cooperative banks to make them attractive to buyers.

The amount of capital to be infused by the government entities should be enough to enable the co-op bank meet the 10 percent capital adequacy ratio (CAR) requirement of the BSP.

The buyer is also required to infuse additional capital by an amount sufficient to further increase the CAR of the surviving bank to at least 15 percent.

The BSP will contribute to the program through the granting of regulatory relief, such as on the form of waived penalties for non-compliance to capital requirements and other bank regulations.

Espenilla said the program was backed by industry members who agreed that there was a need for consolidation.

Discussions about the details of the co-op banking industry consolidation were ongoing, he said.

Besides capital infusion, technical assistance will also be part of the SPCB. The technical assistance will focus on proper governance and other matters related to operations.

Espenilla said the SPCB had gotten the concurrence of foreign cooperative banking institutions.

Stellar expanding in PH

By Abigail L. Ho

STELLAR Philippines, a joint venture between business process outsourcing (BPO) company Stellar Global and listed firm Stayin Inc., will be putting up one site with at least 1,000 seats a year over the next five years to be able to keep up with the increasing global demand for outsourced services.

At the inauguration of the company's second facility in the country yesterday, Stellar Philippines chief finance officer Pablito Lim said another site in Quezon City, in addition to the company's existing Cebu and Eastwood facilities, would be put up next year.

For the next two years, he said the company would be focusing on Metro Manila alone. After that, Stellar Philippines would start establishing presence in the provinces.

Plans also should be registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) to enable the BPO service provider to take advantage of Peza's fiscal and nonfiscal perks, he said.

Each site on the drawing board will have about 1,000 seats, he said.

Depending on the location, he said the investments per facility would be about ₱300 million—₱300 million for the site itself, including all the necessary equipment, and ₱140 million for working capital.

Stellar Philippines chief executive Edmund Wecker said putting up a company-owned building instead of just leasing space leaves room for future developments it also a possibility.

"But that will depend on the nature of the business, on how much we will grow. Right now, we're just partnering with real estate developers with Peza-accredited facilities," he said.

PLDT starts work on submarine cable project

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Co. has started construction on its part of the multinational twin Intl-Mariana cable Express (IMEX)—a new undersea fiber optic system that will improve Internet connection speeds in the Asia Pacific region.

In a statement on Wednesday, PLDT said marine construction work had started on the $300-million ASE, which when completed in the third quarter of 2012 will more than double PLDT's existing international bandwidth capacity.

The 7,200-kilometer undersea cable network project is being undertaken by PLDT, SUBCOM of Japan and Interlink of Singapore, in partnership with NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd.

The start of cable laying work was marked by ceremony last week in Daet, Camarines Norte where PLDT's cable landing station is being built. This is PLDT's third landing station, after those in Nasugbu, Batangas and Baunog, La Union.

"We have designed a future-ready network that can potentially supply more than 15 terabits per second wavelength technology and, in the future, 100 gigabits per second wavelength capability," PLDT Network Services Assistant senior vice president Domingo N. Lim said.

PLDT earlier said it would spend $350 million for its part of the cable system.

"The ASE system will initially link Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore through fiber optic cable that spans 7,200 km," Lim said.

He said it would create a more robust connection between the Philippines and Malaysia, and to the new players, other economically vibrant Asian countries such as China, Vietnam and Thailand. ASE can be connected to other major trade systems to Europe, the Middle East, the other parts of Asia, and the US.

The ASE is the biggest capacity international submarine cable ever to land in the Philippines which will enable PLDT and its group of companies, including Smart, Digitel and Sun to serve the increasing bandwidth requirements of their combined customer base.

Once operational, the new cable system will benefit large businesses like banks, call centers, and BPO companies, as well as small and medium enterprises that do business through the Internet.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
BAC for Civil Works

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract : **CONSTRUCTION OF OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT (OPD) FOR THE NEW ROXAS MEMORIAL PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL (RMPH) AND OTHER FACILITIES AT CAPITOL HILLS, LAWAT, ROXAS CITY**

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **P57,000,000.00**
Source of Fund : **DOH-CY 2010 Health Facility Enhancement Program (Infrastructure)**

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	November 17, 2011
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 06, 2011, 10:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	December 16, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Bidding documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P10,000 Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000.00).
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposal, financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the box/chest before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be dropped at the BAC drop box on or before the closing date on November 16, 2011, 10:30 a.m.
5. The BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or reasonably reimburse for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO F. APA-AP II
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
National Police Commission - HOSPITAL
Metropolitan Command (NCRPO)
Kalaw Ave., Ermita, Manila | 5-1-5528 | 5-1-5-401-4600 | jpnh@yahoo.com.ph |
website: www.jpnh.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Repair (Rehabilitation of Hospital Building Phase I (Completion)
Project Identification No. HRH-2011-0012

1. The Metropolitan Regional Hospital intends through Appropriation Source CY 2010 fund per the DBM circular No. 2010-1 dated April 21, 2010 intends to apply for the sum of Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P7,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to complement under the contract for the Repair/Rehabilitation of Hospital Building Phase I (Completion) Project Identification No. HRH-2011-0012. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Metropolitan Regional Hospital now invites bids for the Repair/Rehabilitation of Hospital Building Phase I (Completion) Project Identification No. HRH-2011-0012. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents from the BAC Secretariat of Metropolitan Regional Hospital, Mangonang-Hagonoy-Hill Area.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500.00) only.**
Bidding documents shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) registration fee and the Procurement Service Fee. Bidders should pay the fee for the Bidding Documents no later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Bid Documents shall be received on **Pre-Bid Conference on November 25, 2011 at 10:00 AM at MRH Conference Room**, which should be open only to interested parties who have purchased Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **December 09, 2011 at 10:00 AM** by the prospective Regional Hospital. All bids must be accompanied by the appropriate bid security. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall commence at the date and time mentioned above in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Metropolitan Regional Hospital reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject at any time all bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) **ROMULO L. BARRALAD**
Chairman
BAC Secretariat

La Union Electric Cooperative, Inc. - (LUELCO)
San Vicente, Agoo, La Union
Tel Nos. (072) 607-8108, 714-0208 Fax No. (072) 714-0800

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The LA UNION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LUELCO) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting interested INDIVIDUALS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

LOT – Construction of 10 MVA Banyan Substation Structure and Protection Upgrading
a. Labor & Materials for Steel Structure Erection;
b. Supply & Installation of Protection Equipment;
c. Supply & Installation of Power Transformer

Lot 1 – Miscellaneous Line Type Distribution Transformers or OUT (Open Delta Connection)
Lot 2 – Miscellaneous Line Type Distribution Transformers or OUT (Open Delta Connection)
Lot 3 – Instrument Transformers (PT)

(Note: Bid Documents for Detailed Technical Specifications and Requirements)

- APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT -

Lot 1 - Solid Dielectrical Lot 2 - Php 5,000,000.00
Lot 3 - Php 5,000,000.00 Lot 4 - Php 5,000,000.00

Prospective bidders may obtain the list of eligibility requirements, bidding documents and other bidding details from the Secretariat starting November **16, 2011** during office hours from Monday to Friday, **8:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM** and can be obtained upon payment of the following fees:

BID DOCUMENT FEES

Lot 1 : Php 10,000.00 Lot 2 : Php 2,000.00
Lot 3 : Php 10,000.00 Lot 4 : Php 2,000.00

Prospective contractors must be identified by all interested bidders on **November 25, 2011, 10:00 A.M.** at LUELCO Auditorium, Sto. Niño East, Aringay, La Union. A site inspection for LOT 1 will follow after the pre-bid conference. Proposal submissions of the bidder or any of its authorized representatives is important. **Opening of Bids** will be on **December 9, 2011, Friday at 1:00 in the afternoon.**

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements will be on or before December 9, 2011, 1:00 P.M. at the Office of the Secretariat. Bidders shall submit their eligibility requirements and their Technical and Financial proposals in separate envelopes properly marked and sealed which will be opened on the date of bidding in the presence of all participating bidders.

All submissions relative to eligibility, bids evaluation and awards shall be governed by the provisions of RA9184 entitled "An Act Providing for Government Procurement Reform".

The BAC reserves the right to reject any, bidder, all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the bid to any participants and make certain provisions which may be deemed necessary in the best interest of the Cooperative and that the LUELCO shall not be liable for whatever expenses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR JOVENCIO B. PATALINGHUG, PEE**
BAC Chairman

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PPA HOME OF SEAFARERS COMPLEX, MUNOZ, NUEVA ECIJA, 3120 (044) 464-0000
TEL. NO. (632) 2-528-9-94, FAX NO. (632) 527-0961, pcorp@ppa.com.ph, www.ppa.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR

1. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE AREAS, PORT OF BAUAN

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Batangas, through the Corporate Budget of the Authority for CY 2011, intends to apply the sum of **P 15,000,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract for the construction of the Proposed Construction of Services and Maintenance Areas, Port of Bauan, Batangas (Contract ID No. PMO-BTG-11-CW-01) and to undertake the said project through competitive bidding.

The Philippine Ports Authority – Batangas Port Management Office now invites bids for the **Proposed Construction of Services and Maintenance Areas, Port of Bauan, Batangas (Contract ID No. PMO-BTG-11-CW-01)**. Completion of the Works is required to be within **Ninety (90) calendar days.**

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Batangas, Batangas City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased starting **November 18, 2011** by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00)**. Bidders should pay the fee for the Bidding Documents no later than the submission of their bids.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Batangas will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **November 28, 2011 at 10:00AM** at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Batangas, Batangas City which shall be open only to interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **December 09, 2011 at 10:00AM** at Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office – Batangas, Old Customs Compound, Batangas City, Batangas. Late bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by any of the acceptable forms of bid security.

Bids will be opened on the **December 09, 2011 at 10:30AM** in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Philippine Ports Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time all bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANGELO L. SANTILLAN**
Chairman
BAC Secretariat, Pantalan

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development Ilocos Region
CITIMED REGIONAL & MEDICAL CENTER

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Supply of Goods (RE-0000006)

1. The **Citimed Regional and Medical Center**, through the General Appropriations Act intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract to be awarded to Supply and Install Various Medical Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during bid opening.
2. The **Citimed Regional and Medical Center** now invites bids for Drugs and Medicine, Various Medical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies, Office Supplies. Delivery of the Goods is required within 30 days from receipt of Purchase Order and as indicated from each item. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the **Citimed Regional and Medical Center** and its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)**. Bidders should pay the fee for the Bidding Documents no later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Bidding Documents shall be received on **November 25, 2011** at the Citimed Regional and Medical Center Conference Room, Mangonang-Hagonoy-Hill Area, Barangay San Vicente, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, which should be open only to interested parties who have purchased Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **December 09, 2011** at 10:00 A.M. by the prospective bidders. All bids must be accompanied by the appropriate bid security. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall commence at the date and time mentioned above in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Citimed Regional and Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject at any time all bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Lot Description	ABC	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price per Unit	Delivery Period
Drugs & Medicine	₱ 1,000,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00	Citimed Regional and Medical Center	Within 30 calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order
Various Medical Supplies	₱ 500,000.00	₱ 500,000.00	Citimed Regional and Medical Center	Within 30 calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order
Laboratory Supplies	₱ 500,000.00	₱ 500,000.00	Citimed Regional and Medical Center	Within 30 calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order
Office Supplies	₱ 500,000.00	₱ 500,000.00	Citimed Regional and Medical Center	Within 30 calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order

9. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.1 of the Philippine Bidding Documents.
10. The Citimed Regional and Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time all bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.
11. For further information, please refer to:

ANGELO M. SALVADOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONALS

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD NEWS

LOST/ MARKET

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CLOSING OUT/SALE

OUT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

TOUR & MIGRATION

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MAINTENANCE

Notice of Loss

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Corniguin Island, Nasipit, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur

Tourist Lodge, Phase 1 & 2, 800,000.00, Fully Furnished, at Binuhangan Sand Bank & ramp, cash or owner will finance for 5 years; more details call 0.4208.3857 till 5:P.M. or visit http://www.myrealtor.ph/?q=133/4455.html

ROSH CUBAO

Very near KCCSA

Ignacio Santos Street (Bambakan St.)

1,100 SQM

25 min frontage

FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT

636-1373/ 426-0004

09178200810

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Office 1
San Fernando City, La Union

INVITATION TO BID
(Construction of Various FMR's Projects under the Naga City Rural Infrastructure Development Project (NCRIDP))

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 1 is inviting interested **PHILIPPINE** accredited contractors (Section 4.5 Category B) to apply for eligibility and to submit proposals on the **Construction of various Farm-to-Market Roads (FMR) under the Naga City Rural Infrastructure Development Project (NCRIDP)** as follows: **(1) Construction of Concrete Pavement of Farm Connecting FMR (2) Concreting of FMR (3) Concreting of Farm Connecting FMR (4) Concreting of FMR (5) Concreting of Farm to Market Road FMR (6) Concreting of Farm to Market Road FMR (7) Concreting of FMR (8) Concreting of Farm to Market Road FMR (9) Concreting of FMR (10) Concreting of Farm to Market Road FMR (11) Concreting of FMR

FOR SALE

LOCATION: UNIT 2B ENG CENTRAL PARK BONIFACIO, BF, CITY (TAGUIG) NEAR LANDMARKS: PTV, CENTRAL, MEDIAMART, QUADRANT

FLOOR AREA: 120 SQUARE METERS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

A. [illegible]
B. [illegible]
C. [illegible]

The Undersigned, duly authorized, by Resolution No. [illegible] of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the Corporation has not violated any provision of the Corporation Code and any amendments thereto, and that the Corporation is not engaged in any unlawful activities or business.

Authorized Signatory

Subscribed and sworn to before me this [illegible] in Pasig City. Doc. No. [illegible]; Page No. [illegible]; Book No. [illegible]; Series of 2011.

Notary Public

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Albay
MUNICIPAL OF POLANGUI
ALBAY

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF [illegible] through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing of Private Entities and accredited, to bid on the following public project:

Name of the Project: Consultancy Services on Riverside Shoreline Area Road Property Situation Study/[illegible] Surveying

Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 2,000,000.00
Contract Duration: One (1) month/ Twenty Days (20 days of Work)

All perspective bidders to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Prohibitions, Conflict of Interest, Eligibility of Bidder, Qualifications, Preference of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the IRR of the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application	Nov. 16 to 22, 2011
2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents/Checklist	Nov. 23, 2011
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 24 to 30, 2011
4. Results of Eligibility Check	Dec. 01, 2011
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 02 to 08, 2011
6. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 09, 2011
7. Submission and Opening of Bids	Dec. 2, 2011

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at BAC Office, Office of the Municipal Engineer, Civil Registrar, Municipal Treasurer's Office at Polangui, Albay and upon payment of non-refundable amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) to the Cashier of Municipal Treasurer's Office. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office. Bid Proposal shall be submitted in the form of Sealed Bid/Bid Bond payment of a non-refundable amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500.00) to the Cashier of the Municipal Treasurer's Office. The LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF [illegible] reserves the right to cancel or reject any Bid, and to waive the Bidding and Award of Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved By:

(Sgd.) DARRELL O. [illegible], JR.
MAY/Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
City of Alaminos
Province of Pangasinan

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER LABORATORIES LOCATED AT VARIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREMISES OF ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN

1. The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN, duly[illegible] a grant from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), thru the Performance Challenge Fund amounting to Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00) and counterpart allocation from the City Government if such amount is [illegible] Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), the contemplated contract is [illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is payment is open for the construction of the CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER LABORATORIES LOCATED AT VARIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREMISES OF ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. CITY GOVERNMENT OF ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN now invites bids for CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER LABORATORIES LOCATED AT VARIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL PREMISES OF ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN. Completion of the Works requires One Hundred Twenty Four (124) Calendar Days (Bidders should have completed, within two [illegible] years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and is open to prequalified contractors as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from CITY GOVERNMENT OF ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from November 17 – December 12, 2011.
5. The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on November 28, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. at Conference Room, 2nd Floor Alaminos City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00).

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity [illegible] provided that Bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 12, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Alaminos City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms in the amount as stated in ITB Clause 18. Late bids shall not be accepted.

   Bid opening shall be on December 12, 2011 at 10:30AM in Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Alaminos City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chooses to attend at the address below.
8. The winning bidder shall be paid by the City only after the issuance of Certificate of Project Completion by the City.
9. The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

    MS. ISABELA [illegible]
    City Budget Office, 3rd Floor, Alaminos City Hall Building
    Governor Andaya Highway, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
    (075) 551-3600
    www.alaminos.city.gov.ph

    (Sgd.) **HON. ROMMEL T. RUIZ**
    Chairman - Bids and Awards Committee

1) A brief description of the project, of Works should be provided, including quantities, location of project, and other information necessary to enable potential bidders to decide whether or not to respond to the invitation.

NFA-FDC conducts training on thermal process operation for retort operators

THE FOOD DEVELOPMENT Center (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a training course on "Thermal Process Operation for Retort Operators" on Nov. 17-18, 2011 at the FDC Compound, ITI Complex, Taguig City.

The training course aims to upgrade the knowledge and skills of retort operators in the operation of Thermal Processing System. It provides basic information on the basic concepts and operations of retort equipment and emphasizes the importance of monitoring process variables for safety and stability of canned foods are concerned.

The course will last for two days which consist of lectures discussions and hands-on exercises. The lecture portion discusses the description of retorts used in thermal processing and basic information on microorganisms and operation on retort equipment. The practical portion involves the hands-on operation of retort systems.

A maximum of 25 participants will be accepted on the operation of still retort (steam and/or water spray).

A contribution of P4,988.80 per participant is inclusive of training materials, lunch, snacks and a shuttle service from Ayala Center, Makati City to FDC and back.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelita T. Bautista, FDC, ITI Complex, Taguig City at telephone nos. 838-4814, 838-4961, 838-4478 and 838-4607 at Fax No. 838-4319 or 17 and 838-4666 and at E-mail Address: (attn:) ntc.ud.gin

Advertise at [illegible] MAY ENDING 2010

Issue at [illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg. F.B. Harrison St. Cor. 7th St. Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines, Zip Code 1300
Tele. 8917-0501 to 09 – Fax: 832-07-87
Website: www.owwa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT

The OWWA Screening and Selection Committee announces that the nomination of Cpt. Feliberto I. Rebustillo as representative of the Sea-based Sector in the OWWA Board of Trustees has been endorsed to the Office of the President for action.

Cagayan Peninsulares, along with two other nominees namely: Engr. Genaroson T. Magnaye and Atty. Gaurman N. Pascual Jr., were screened in accordance with Section 30 of Republic Act 8042, as amended by Republic Act 10022.

For the information of all concerned.

GABRIELITA S. CINCON
Administrator and Chairman
Screening and Selection Committee

(PNA – November 11, 2011)

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

Korean, Taiwanese judges at AKCUP's 47th and 48th dog shows Nov. 20

THE ASIAN KENNEL Club Union of the Philippines, Inc. (AKCUP) will top its year-long events with its 47th and 48th Inter-national All-Breed Dog Shows on Sunday, Nov. 20 at Tent Vendor, Bridgen Ave. cor. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5), Pasig City. The shows will be adjudicated by Jung Yong Woon of the Korean Kennel Club (KKC) and Tsai Ching Nien of the Taiwan Kennel Association (TKA).

Jung Yong Woon

Tsai Ching Nien

Jung is a licensed International All Breed judge of the Korean Kennel Club and the Kennel Club Union of Asia with grooming and trimming and show handling as his expertise. A director of the Korean Kennel Club, Judges Licensing and Handler Committee, Jung is a licensed Show Master of the Kennel Club, and as veteran professor of grooming in several universities in Korea such as the Kongju Continuator Junior College, Daegu Polytechnic College, Dongu Kaimyung College, and Jeonju Kijeon Women's College. He completed the Two-level Groomer's Course at the Book-tack College, Nara.

Tsai, on the other hand, started his dog world career in 1981 when he became a Doberman grower under the dog breeding industry. Since then, he made many champions of all-breed dogs. Currently, he is focused on the professional of Shetland Sheepdog. His judging labels as an FCI judge since 2006 took him to China, Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong.

For more information, please call the AKCUP's Office at 3766-8878 or e-mail at admin@akcup.com or visit its website at www.akcup.com.

Center for Small Entrepreneurs: Growing stronger throughout the years

CSE, A NON-STOCK, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION founded in the year 1996 celebrates its 15th Year Anniversary this month of November. In line with this, CSE has organized the 21st Kaufmang Entrepreneurship with the theme –"Tao!: Tatag, Asensa at Oportunidad…"

Tagalugin ay Kapatid ng Chinoy/Hoy ay Tsinggoy sa Mandirigal ng Pagna-Negosyo" which will be held on Nov. 18, to be held in Ayala at the Gender Hall of the Asian Social Institute, Makati Manila.

Consumer-oriented speakers will be shaping their expertise and experiences as in the field of broadcast like in its guru Rowena Bautista, Executive Director of PCDF/Director Rodolfo Agbayani will be speaking on growing employment rate in business partners, Entrepreneur and owner of Cat Magic – Ruvin Salvador shall share issues and ways of developing a customer-centric culture, Prof. Jose Emmanuel P. Cruz, Dean of College of Business and Arts at University of Makati shall report statistics in exploring niche field of business in this partnership. In further deepen the day's discussion, Mr. Jesus Francis Rebustillo, Vice President for Client Relations of the Philippine Daily Inquirer shall talk on handling issues in People Management while Timothy "TJ" Agoto, Executive Director of Bliss Workers Foundation/Kapisyo will be sharing their experiences in nurturing collegial partnerships as a means to growing the business.

CSE's Executive is to empower Filipino entrepreneurs with the knowledge and management skills that they need in building and growing their enterprises that's why the 21st Kaufmang Entrepreneurship has been designed to focus on the significance of people in a business enterprise. It gives emphasis on the three kinds of people in businesses having people as workers, people as customers and people as business partners.

For inquiries and reservations, please contact Lourdes B. Saavedra of the Business Development Group of the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) at 425-8676, 424-4870 or 0927-7107035, 0919-2349603 or send as an email at lourdes@csentrepreneurship.org.ph.

OBITUARIES

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed

FEVI VELASQUEZ PURISIMA

at the 27th year after his birthday on November 20, 1983

Holy Masses will be offered in the following Churches:

Parish of St. Lazarus de Cana, Ayala Alabang Village ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. Simone Stock Parish, Santa Mesa ..... 6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Forest Village, QC ..... 6:15 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati ..... 6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage, Cubao, QC ..... 5:45 a.m.

The Fidel Casas, Balbuena Alcazar request relatives, friends and parishioners to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Florinio Oledan Ramos

Fatefully joined his Creator on 15 November 2011 at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, FAITH CHAPEL, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 19 November 2011 at Heritage Park, Taguig City after the 11 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

ELISA TECSON FIEL

February 16, 1922 - November 15, 2011
peacefully joined the Lord at age 89.

Husband, **Dr. Luis Fiel** (†), children: **Eddie** (†), **Boots**, **Oscar**, **Birdie**, **Helen** (†) and **Annie**; children-in-law: **Lady**, **Alan**, **Jim** and **John** and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Chapels, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at Manila Memorial Park, Paranaque City.

ROSITA BAUTISTA
Y CARANDANG

peacefully joined the Creator on the 14th of November 2011 at the age of 82.

Her devoted husband, **Felino**; children: **Jose Rizaldy**, Kit S. Chan, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren, relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Araneta, Paranaque City.

Interment will be on November 20, 2011, Friday at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque City.

INTERMENT ARRANGEMENTS
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification card (2 pcs.)

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." – Joshua 23:14

BUSINESS

Remittance growth to slow in '12, DBS says

Outlook cloudy due to weaker global economy

By Roland N. Dorotaga

THE $20.9-billion remittances from overseas Filipinos may slow down next year despite a "surprisingly resilient" showing so far this year, according to DBS Group.

The Singapore-based financial services group said in its latest research that "the remittance growth outlook remains cloudy amid slower global growth in 2012."

The group added that it is unlikely for the country's revenue to maintain a sustained period of double-digit remittance growth as seen from 2004-2008 when global growth was strongest.

Even then, DBS said growth in remittances has been surprisingly resilient over the last few months despite worries about a slowdown in the developed nations and recover in the Middle East, the possible effects of which have been taken into account.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said last Tuesday that remittances routed through banks reached $14.8 billion as of September, an increase of 7.1 percent from the same period last year.

According to the central bank, the top sources of remittances for January to September were the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany and Norway.

Expand abroad, ING urges local firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

MORE Philippine corporations should look at expansion opportunities abroad to make the most of their strong balance sheets, according to the head of ING's Asian corporate finance unit.

Except for a few players, most Philippine corporations tend to be generally cautious as they are scalded of the adverse impact of the Asian currency crisis of 1997, said Manuel Salak III, Singapore-based ING managing director for clients and corporate finance for Asia.

On the positive side, each creditor has produced a throng of stable companies with huge cash balances that are well prepared to deal with volatile global markets.

But caution, he said, was a "double-edged" sword as this had likewise prevented many corporations from "trying to take themselves to the next level." As such, he said there were not too many corporate deals in the Philippines compared to other markets.

"What the Philippines needs to do is to be more multiracial," he said. "While good business shoot and evaluation is sounding are very good, they need to be very global in perspective."

Salak cited companies like International Container Terminal Services Inc., JG Summit, Ayala Corp., Ayala Land Corp., Jollibee Foods Corp. and Integrated Microelectronics Inc. as among the few companies making good inroads into overseas markets.

American firm to boost coco oil imports from PH

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN organic food firm Nealtra will be importing at least 100 containers of coconut oil from the Philippines next year, slightly higher than its average demand of six to eight containers a month, as the market for the country's coconut products continues to expand.

Nealtra president and chief executive John Boulac said the Philippine would continue to be the company's main source of coconut oil imports.

"Right now, 100 percent of our coconut oil imports comes from the Philippines because you have the right skill sets, understanding of the industry, and facilities to produce good products. The quality is good and the price is good," he said in a briefing yesterday.

While also eyeing other countries for its coconut oil imports, he said the Philippines would continue to be its primary coconut oil supplier—a situation that is not likely to change anytime soon.

Nealtra started buying coconut oil from the Philippines in 2004, five years after the company was founded in 1999.

On the average, Nealtra and Nealtra sells around 300,000 jars a month of its coconut oil through more than 10,000 outlets all over the United States. Of its $220-million annual sales revenue, 80 percent comes from coconut oil.

The company's goal, he said, was to sell a million jars of coconut oil a month.

The government, through the Department of Agriculture and Philippine Coconut Authority, will be beefing up the country's coconut production by next year to address the huge demand not only for coconut oil, but also for coconut water and other related products.

Agriculture Undersecretary Bernie Fondevilla-Pryor said at least 500,000 more trees needed to supply the potential demand for coco water in the overseas market.

To help jack up the country's coconut supply, she said budgets for replanting and fertilization next year had been significantly hiked.

Increase in construction material prices eased in Oct.

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE RATE of increase in the prices of selected construction materials in the National Capital Region (NCR) slowed in October, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The monthly change in the retail price index of selected construction materials in NCR went up in a slower rate of 0.1 percent in October from 0.7 percent in September, NSO said.

Prices of various galvanized iron (GI) products declined month-on-month while selected lumber, cement, and steel bar products enjoyed price hikes.

The index of transitory materials declined by 0.3 percent in October from 1.6 percent in September.

Increases in masonry materials and miscellaneous construction materials indexes correspondingly eased to 0.1 percent and 1 percent from their respective last month's rates of 2.1 percent and 3.4 percent.

Meanwhile, the year-on-year growth in the prices of selected construction materials slowed down to 3.0 percent in October from 4.6 percent in September, NSO said.

NSO said the annual increases in masonry materials index decelerated to 3.9 percent in October from 6.4 percent in September; electrical materials, 2.6 percent from 6.6 percent; painting materials and related compounds, 3.2 percent from 5.8 percent; plumbing materials, 2.6 percent from 4.2 percent; and lumber materials, 1.3 percent from 2.6 percent.

Meanwhile, the indices of masonry materials and miscellaneous construction materials have higher annual rates during the month in review, NSO said.

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TENOR	5 years and 3 months
OFFER PERIOD	3 November to 18 November 2011 (up to 11:30 am)
PRICE SETTING	18 November 2011
ISSUE DATE	25 November 2011

*5-year PDST-F of 5.1361% as of 11/16/11

Available at First Metro Investment Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank.

The Asset

Investment Banking + Treasury + Investment Advisory

Lifestyle Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Food

GINNY Roces de Guzman

GINNY'S RED VELVET CHRISTMAS

3 c all-purpose flour; 2 tsp baking powder; 1 tsp baking soda; ½ tsp salt; 1 tbsp cocoa powder; 3 ½ c butter; 3 ½ c sugar; 2 eggs; 4 egg yolks; 2 ½ c evaporated milk; 2 tbsp Silk Cornsilk red food color; 1 tsp vanilla; 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two 9-inch round baking

GINNY'S 12

After Sugarhouse, Ginny Roces de Guzman whips up a cake book

She who helped shape a generation's dessert experience likens baking to fashion's Little Black Dress

By Jen Rhaps
Contributor

TWELVE YEARS ago, Ginny Roces de Guzman sold Sugarhouse, the hugely popular cake shop she launched in the 1980s when she was 26 years old. Changing visions prompted the partners to let go of the long-time venture, and while it seemed like the best solution, it certainly wasn't an easy thing to do.

"In the beginning, I couldn't even walk past a store without feeling bad," admits De Guzman. "Whenever I'm at Rockwell, I walk on the opposite side of the shop—and yet the staff would see me and wave to me. But that's okay." she decides with characteristic optimism. "So we can start something new!"

That's exactly what De Guzman has been doing ever since. Besides getting time somewhere to work, the spoiled Gemma, a contributor at Residencia Global City where she lives and sells many of her food ideas. She also found time to put together "Bake Me A Cake," her fourth book, but her first book on cakes and her first crack at writing a book by herself.

Photographed by Mimi Gutierrez and edited by Maya Sese, the 144-page book in the making project was launched recently at Polly Booked Bonifacio High Street, an "exciting yet scary" milestone for De Guzman, who doubted as author and curator for the event.

"She served the cakes [featured] in the book," she says. "I wanted to show people that food looked and tasted just as good off the page."

Conversational tone

She also wanted to show how easy it can be to, well, bake a cake. Written in a conversational tone and with backgrounds about each cake that read like a story, "the idea behind the book was to make it friendly. When you read the instructions, it's almost as if I'm right beside you, telling you 'Do this, don't do

AFTER 12

CHOCOLATE Truffles and Enchanted Forest

After Sugarhouse, Ginny Roces de Guzman whips up a cake book

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that," she explains with a chuckle.

Interestingly, De Guzman approach to baking a cake like a fashion project. Like a basic Little Black Dress that you layer and match with accessories, a cake—for it is sponge, meringue, chocolate or buttery cake—can become anything you want it to be, by "dressing it up," so to speak, with frosting and a variety of ingredients.

"From my experience in Sugarhouse, you can make a different cake, a dessert, every week with a base of three or four cakes," De Guzman says. "Customers are overwhelmed by the choices, but really, when you break it down into components, it's very simple."

Of course, putting all that knowledge in a book is a different story altogether. Despite being "excited" about Odette's no-nonsense working style, De Guzman threw the photographer because of his ability to shoot food that looked "natural and cool," a quality she admired in his partner for Ann Roces's "Women of Substance" photo shoot.

Indeed, absolutely no food styling was done on any of the cakes that appeared in "Bake Me A Cake," a testament to the book's effortless process.

"The first time I baked a cake for a friend," shares De Guzman, "[that] husband ate and said, 'Oishi, ma!' What if it didn't look good in pictures? And what happens after we shoot it?"

In any case, the two in three cakes she baked for us according just as well as it would. De Guzman and her team gladly devoured them after each shoot.

"Don't use the subject!" Odette would bellow.

While writing recipes is second nature to De Guzman, it was she who penned the cues featured in her family's cookbook compilation, "Odette-isms"), so time to pursue an art.

"I felt vulnerable," she admits. Thankfully, friends like sisters Enda Bolgado (who went over her first draft) and sisters Hope Bron and Tina Bon (the book's editor and designer, respectively) made the process as enjoyable and fun for the publishing newbie.

"They would say terms like 'fit-to,' 'prep,' and 'pour cubes's running into the garage,' and I wouldn't understand," De Guzman says, giggling. "Did Tina, who designed the book from San Francisco, would e-mail me pages and I'd be so excited to receive them every morning."

Her following books should be a breeze. Fully Booked's Anton Diaz, who's published "Bake Me a Cake," is keen on De Guzman creating a series. "My want to do a pie book, a cookies book and a bread book," she says. "But what I really want to do is a Filipino food book."

Betty Crocker beginnings

For De Guzman, the stylist of four pubs and more and godchild to artist-writer Alfredo Roces, it was Betty Crocker's cookbook that lured her into the kitchen.

"My mom Khaled is, who had to take care of my sisters, gave it to me and asked me if I could bake from it," she recalls. Then all of seven years old, she remembers going over the recipes and saying to herself, "I can do this!"

Or so she thought. Her father, Mitzi quotes, who are everything she made, would inevitably submit their not all her creations to a critical eye. She loved, but by that it was too late. Both practice and the encouragement of family members, she baked her school fairs at 10, and now teaching neighborhood kids simple dishes when she was 13.

It's from here that confidence and flexibleness would manifest over the cakes of Sugarhouse, a bakeshop known for its innovative menu, including its French apple Pie.

De Guzman laughs at the story behind one of her bestsellers. "We only added it due to distinguish it from the apricot in Apple Pie, which has a double crust. Our French Apple Pie had a crust with crumbs and ground cheese. But in reality, the French would never put cheese on top of anything sweet. Still, it was a hit that so many people copied."

Find her partners let her, she would have resulted to count out with a cookbook of Sugarhouse favorites.

"But they didn't agree because they said it would mean sharing trade secrets, that nothing is really original," she declares, when asked where she gets her ideas. "Of course, you get inspired by people or by reading books. But a cake is almost always your interpretation of something that already exists."

A different way in heart

While her years running Sugarhouse seemed like education enough, De Guzman decided to make her craft formally. Then in her 30s and already with kids, she enrolled in a part-time program at Culinary Institute of America, an opportunity she pursued "out of curiosity, and because I assumed young and never had the chance to study abroad."

She immersed with students who were years younger, like Jess, people who she regards her time in CIA "as an affirmation of what I already knew. Being with my classmates was when I learned a lot because we had a common technique of talent."

Now a certified Vikramsching, this mother of four boys and a girl is eager to explore new things as she sees when her mother first handed her a cookbook at age 7.

"You always have to have a self improvement project, and right now, I'm learning to play guitar," she says, a Gen X mom, who says he wants regular house sessions of barbie yoga and belly dancing. Her daughter and the help find the latter amusing, but De Guzman insists, "if you don't dance, you will never like an old person!"

For all the cakes she bakes, De Guzman does not follow a diet. She eats and drinks everything in moderation, including her own cakes and desserts.

"I like what I cook," she exclaims, "because that's exactly the way I want it to taste!"

GINNY'S RED VELVET CHRISTMAS

From page C1

pans with wax or baking paper.

2. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cocoa powder.

3. In a bowl, beat the butter with an electric mixer until light and creamy. Add the sugar gradually and continue to beat until light and fluffy, around 10 minutes. Add the eggs and egg yolk one at a time, while continuing to beat until well mixed.

4. Combine the evaporated milk, red food color and vanilla in a bowl. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour mixture and milk mixture evenly to the batter mixture. Scrape down the sides of the bowl to make sure the batter is thoroughly mixed.

5. Pour the batter into the prepared pans and bake for about 40 minutes.

Cream Cheese Frosting
2 cups cream cheese
½ c butter
2 tsp confectioners' sugar

Combine the cream cheese and butter in a bowl and cream until light and fluffy. Add the sugar and continue to beat until smooth.

Assembly

1. Remove the cooled cakes from pans. With a serrated knife or bench knife, carefully slice off the rounded tops of the cakes to make a level surface. Set aside the excess cake for later, covered with plastic wrap to keep it from drying out.

2. Carefully slice each cake layer into two layers with your serrated knife. You will have a total of four layers. Set aside one layer with the excess cake reserved earlier.

3. Set one cake layer on a stand and cover with frosting. Repeat until you have three layers. Cover the top and sides of the cake with a thin coating of frosting and refrigerate to set, about 30 minutes.

4. Spread the rest of the frosting over the sides, pulling more on top and making swirls designs with the back of a spoon or a spatula. Break up the reserved cake layer with your fingers and crumble into fine crumbs. Carefully and as evenly as you can, cover the sides of the cake with the set cake crumbs. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

LEMON TORTE WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE CURLS

Lemon curd (A)
grated rind and juice of 3 lemons (B)
¼ c plus 2 tbsp sugar
3 egg yolks
¼ c butter, cut in 3 inch pieces
pinch of salt

(A) If you have spare egg yolks on hand, you can double the batch since lemon curd is delicious, too, spread on butter cookies.

(B) Lemons are much easier to zest when cold, yet room temperature lemons provide more juice. Store lemons just before using in the fridge without moisture if it's snowing.

1. Zest the grated lemon rind and sugar in a small bowl and mix with your fingers. The citrusier the zest more oils from the lemon peel to infuse the sugar. Taking the time to do this little step will make a difference in the flavor of the curd.

2. Whisk the egg yolks in a small saucepan and if they are light in color. Add the zest-sugar mixture and lemon and the lemon juice. Cook over low flame, stirring continuously. When it starts to thicken, add the butter a few pieces at a time. The curd will thicken further. Continue cooking until the curd comes to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer and cook gently for 10 minutes. Drain and cool off quickly under running water.

3. Combine the sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Simmer until clear. Add the lemon juice and cook over low heat for another 15-20 minutes until the lemon dries on touch. Drain and carefully lay the dices on a cooling rack. Leave to dry in a low oven, around 200°F. Or clean in a low oven, around 200°F. Or clean in low dry days in sunlight conditions.

Assemble
1 c whipping cream
1 tbsp sugar
1 recipe lemon curd
200 g good-quality white chocolate
1 recipe candied lemons

1. In a bowl, beat together the cream and sugar with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and soft peaks form.

2. Put a dab of cream on a cake board or platter and top with a meringue nest. Top with large dollop of lemon curd. Spread half the lemon curd evenly over, then top with a second nest. Spread the rest of the lemon curd over this and set the final nest on top. Cover the top and sides with the whipped cream.

3. Using a vegetable peeler, shave white chocolate over the top of the torte. Decorate with the candied lemon slices. Keep the torte in the refrigerator or freezer until ready to serve.

Dine on 'morcon,' spicy beef spareribs, fish fillet–for a good cause

By Irene E. Perez

TENDER MORCON with chorizo and egg from Abe! Irresistible cut of beef from Cagayan Province, Grilled spicy beef spareribs also in from Café Adriatico is soft and caramelized. Likewise as Marie, savoury baked cream-ing in caramelized sauce from Sole 70, is dessert and snacks in one.

These are just some of the comfort food from the LJC group of restaurants that you could come to help raise funds for cancer patients.

The LJC group's Creative Director campaign recently launched in Bistro Remedios in Manila, in celebration of founder Lorenzo "Larry" Cruz's birth anniversary on Sept. 17. Cruz opened Café Adriatico in Makati, Manila, in 1978, and started the bistro trend. So it known for establishing casual dining restaurants with cozy interiors and innovative menus.

Other dishes in the Feed to Cure selection are Fillet of Dory Fish Shiitake from Larry's Café & Bar, Bengan Belly with Kangkong Batchoy, a fried lumpia Philly and Chicken Pie topped with roasted kangkong and lugaong from Lorenzo's Way. Mga Bisaya, white pekbin with coconut cream topped with rice crispies, from Bistro Remedios at Bistro Remedios. You can also avail of the buffet at Café Mariana in Intramuros.

LJC Group CEO and president Lorna Cruz-Ambion, Cruz's daughter, said these dishes are the bestsellers in the restaurants. The LJC Group will give P15 to the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital through the Cancer Institute Foundation Inc. for every order, whether dine-in or takeout.

"My father passed away in early 2008 due to thyroid cancer, so this was way of helping those who are struggling with the disease," she said.

It's the second year the LJC group has been raising funds for cancer patients. It was able to raise P300,000 last year, and with the climate change's treacherous effects on farmers, the event are expensive, she noticed is welcome, said Cruz-Ambion's thank for those in-stores. The campaign runs now till Nov. 30.

Visit chefs at Remedios, 201 McKinley Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; Café Adriatico at 1 Makati Avenue, Makati City; Café Mariana at 1 Intramuros Manila; Sole 70 at 70 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City; Lorenzo's Way at 1 Intramuros Manila; Larry's Café & Bar at 1 Intramuros Manila; Bistro Remedios at 201 McKinley Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; Café Adriatico at 1 Makati Avenue, Makati City; Café Mariana at 1 Intramuros Manila; Sole 70 at 70 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City; Lorenzo's Way and Bistro Remedios at 201 McKinley Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

GE Profile
Presenting the new GE Split-type aircon with Inverter Technology
inverter
GE imagination at work

Xmas bazaar for a cause sets annual fair

NOEL (RICOMO) Samar, the country's biggest benefit bazaar, marks its 11th year of helping worthy causes with "Bazaar 'Sitik ti Puso." This three-day Fabriche sale will feature over 1,000 entrepreneurs ranging from Christmas and home decors, food, apparel and accessories, novelties, books and other gift items for the holidays and beyond.

Run 1 mas from Nov. 18 to 27 at the World Trade Center, while Part 2 moves to the PICC Forum Nov. 25 to Dec. 4 to 18.

Noel Bazaar returns to the World Trade Center on Dec. 21 to 23 to provide last-minute shoppers more unique and quality products at rock-bottom prices.

The event will benefit the GMA Kapuso, featuring ng mga Kapuso and Aanwuse Ministries of Ascension in foundations along with the Sto. Peter and John Parish, and the Noel B Garcia Memorial Clinic in Malabon City.

Aside from the best holiday shopping items, the bazaar will also feature a Mardi Gras-inspired setting provided by Metro Liquor Corp.

According to Marcos Fabriche, Our fellowship-minded and event-inspired director, the extended Christmas fair will allow shoppers to get more unique, affordable and quality products while providing exhibitors opportunities to maximize their income potential.

GMA celebrities will also perform sing and dance numbers and will be available for picture-taking and autograph signing.

Shoppers can maximize of the GMA Kapuso series celebrity booths and get a chance to meet and greet their favorite TV stars. There will also be entertainment numbers, special events and daily raffle draws, along with cooking and product demonstrations, as well as fashion shows in cooperation with Abbylan.

The Noel Bazaar series is brought to you by the GMA Network, GMA News TV, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Japa Bee, Gotrice Corp., GEMS, Kamagay LU 97.1, in cooperation with The Kawaga Post, Entrepreneur Magazine, Go Negosyo, St. Paul University Quezon City and the Philippine Internship Association.

For details, and Get Initiated at 6677333, e-mail northbazaar@gmail.com or follow noel.bazaar on Facebook and Twitter.

NOEL Bazaar Marinky exhibitors Jewel, Jackie from Lighthouse Publishing

Food club hosts pre-holiday culinary event

SAN MIGUEL Great Food Club celebrates Christmas early with a pre-holiday culinary event at Mercato Centrale. The event is open to members of My Great Food Club, and to foodies, culinary students and food enthusiasts.

This year's celebration will be about making gourmet try-easy preparations for the Yuletide season, with cooking and baking demos by Chef Ed Quimson and Lori Buttaran, hosted by Chef Dennis Eddison and Danny Dela Cuesta, as well as raffles, food sampling, photo booth and lots of camera-ready.

Over 500 participants are expected to take part in this seasonal feasting which will happen on Nov. 19, Saturday 9 a.m. at Mercato Centrale, Bonifacio Global City Taguig. For more details and recipe ideas, visit www.bigmacfood.com or call 632.2000.

Holiday desserts

NICE'S BAKESHOP offers Up something dessert's and savory dishes for the holidays.

Enjoy Brownie Walnut Cheese, Oatmeal Choco Chip, Brownie Ice Cake, Dulce de Leche, New York Cheesecake, Ensaymada Cheese and Malvern Lava, among others.

It also offers gourmet breads, mini-tartlets, cheese rolls and Cheesy Buns turnovers.

Nice's is also popular for its American style Sweet Turkey and Meat Lasagna.

Nice's Gourmet Bakery is at 1724 A. Mabini St., San Juan (tel. 5711840). It's open daily 10 a.m. -10 p.m.

Nice's goodies are also available at Baker's Dozen (Greenhills Level), Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center all weekends at Mercadito and Dessertiers and at Weekend Gourmet Market, 3/F, Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC, tel. 911-28.

E-mail Nice's at bbrakeshop@gmail.com, Nicebakeshop.mail@ydy.com.

WHEAT Crisps

LASAGNA

Pre-holiday delights from Maya Kitchen

TRY YOUR hand in preparing something new to usher in the holiday cheer. Pick takes on a different look as a roulade perfect to go with dill lemon sauce. Make your own pepper hamburger and surprise everyone with how good it taste. Create chicken parmigiana from scratch and start your own culinary tradition.

For more recipes, other culinary ideas and course schedule, log on to www.themayakitchen.com.

Supreme Fish Spinach Roulade with Dill Lemon Sauce

1-2 pieces sole fish fillets
salt and pepper to taste
juice of 1 lemon
spinach leaves, steamed and washed
4 cloves basil or cubanos
1 cube chicken stock
Dill Lemon Sauce
½ cup butter
2 tsp MAYA All-Purpose Flour
1 piece chicken bouillon
1 tsp fresh dill
1 ½ chicken stock
1 tsp lemon juice

Season fillets with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Set aside for a few minutes. Cut fillets into several thin slices. Layer on top spinach leaves and salami. Roll each fillet slice and secure with fresh chives. Poach each roulade into chicken stock until cook. Place then pour dill lemon sauce prepared as follows. Melt butter in pan and saute in flour until well blended. Add in bouillon, dill and stock. Cook until it thickens. Stir in lemon juice.

Pepper Lyonnaise

500 g ground pork, chilled
½ tsp finely chopped ginger, chilled
½ c finely chopped onion, chilled
½ tsp Maya Maya Mayonnaise
½ tbsp paprika
½ tsp cardamom
3 pieces eggs whites, chilled
½ c MAYA Cornstarch
½ c diced red pepper, blanched and chilled
½ c diced green pepper, blanched and chilled
1 tsp seasoning (white pepper, salt) and butter

Put the ground pork in a food processor and process until fine, add the ginger, onion, mayo or mayonnaise, paprika and cardamom and continue processing. Add the egg whites and cornstarch and process again until it is fine and smooth. Transfer in a bowl, add the peppers, seasonings and toss gently until well-mixed. Shape a loaf pan mold or aluminum foil with butter. Fill up mold with the mix, cover with foil or wrap the mixture in aluminum foil and cook tightly. Steam for about an hour or until cooked. Let cool and chill. Slice into serving portions. Plate and decorate as desired.

Chicken Parmigiana

1 piece egg, beaten
½ c dry bread crumbs
½ c MAYA All-Purpose Flour
salt and pepper to taste
oil for frying
½ - ¾ c pellati tomato sauce
2-3 pieces basil leaves, chopped
½ c shredded mozzarella cheese
½ c grated Parmesan cheese
2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

Preheat oven to 350°F. Slightly beat egg into a small bowl. In a separate bowl place bread crumbs. Mix together flour, salt and pepper in another bowl. Coat chicken in flour mixture. Dip in egg then roll in bread crumbs. Heat skillet and pan fry chicken in little oil. Set aside.

Pour 1/2 of the pellati sauce into a 7x11 inch baking dish. Place chicken over sauce, and cover with remaining sauce. Sprinkle chopped basil leaves, mozzarella and Parmesan cheese on top and bake to the preheated oven for 20 minutes or until cheese melts. Plate and decorate as desire.

California Cheeses Top Pizzas Like No Other!
Pizza lovers all over the world have Raffaele Esposito to thank for his revolutionary "Pizza Margherita".
To honor Italy's Queen Margherita of Savoy, Esposito in June 1889 served a pizza pie that resembled the colors of the Italian flag, adding to value ingredients as red tomatoes and basil (green). Esposito had the most brilliant idea of using as ingredient for the first time in renowned white - mozzarella cheese.
Statistics show that pizza and cheese remain on top of the list of the most craved foods in the world. Aside from its quasi-universal appeal, pizza is so easy to share that it has become the preferred fare whenever family and friends come together. Foreign and local restaurants and pizzerias in the Philippines looking to satisfy this growing hunger for pizza will discover that there is ready and steady supply of California Mozzarella. Chefs and owners of food establishments will appreciate the versatility and high quality of California Mozzarella.
California is fast becoming the USA's leading producer of Mozzarella cheese and is routinely winning awards and acclaim in many of the world's leading cheese competitions. Every purchase of California Mozzarella comes with the assurance that California cheese makers comply with rigorous sanitation standards and the cheeses are made exclusively from California milk.
Whether your specialty calls for vegetarian or meat toppings, you can never go wrong with tempting extra cheese.
And if you dare create your own pizza to surprise family and friends, it is always a safe rule to use the best pizza cheese there is, California Mozzarella.
There are among the many reasons why California Mozzarella is preferred and used by large pizza chains and specialty restaurants all over the world.
California Mozzarella is locally available for retail and wholesale purchase in M&N branches, ARANETA in Cebu and other leading supermarkets nationwide.
To learn more about California milk and cheese and how you can showcase these quality products in the Philippines, please get in touch with Real California Milk Philippines at 632 8888 1000 or email us at info@realcaliforniamilk.com.ph
www.RealCaliforniaMilk.com

FOREVER 21 GOES TO METRO CEBU

Style goes to the Queen City of the South with the opening of a new Forever 21 store in the Northwing of SM City Cebu!

Forever 21, which has come to the Philippines through a partnership with the SM Retail Group, had a pre-weekend opening of its flagship store at SM Megamall on 28 10. Another store at the SM Makati in the Central Business District opened early this year to great fanfare more and more.

One of the fastest growing and most successful apparel lines in the U.S., Forever 21 continues to extend their reach in the Philippines with the opening of its first ever store in the Southern part of the country.

With that, it has grown to be the style destination to fashion-forward shoppers in Metro Manila, giving Metro Cebu's fashionable set a lot to be excited about with its latest fashion trends at the greatest value.

With a first-to-view of inventory that reflects the ever-changing moods of fashion, the Northwing store features bright elegant interiors and wonderful eclectic décor combined with exciting merchandise from Forever 21 and its fun and fab lines – Love 21, Heritage 1981, Forever 21 Girls, Forever 21 ×, and 21 Men. The store also has a wide collection of Shoes and Accessories.

Forever 21 shoppers can also enjoy perks and great fashion values as Forever 21 teams up with BDO with the Forever 21 Mastercard. They can also get 5% rebate for ₱5,000 or more spent for all BDO cards. Forever 21 also offers SM Cards in ₱1,000 and ₱2,000 denominations.

On the opening day, November 18, all Forever 21 at the Northwing of SM City Cebu, Forever 21 Cebu will be giving away ₱500 vouchers, with minimum purchase of ₱2,500, for the first 250 to line up. Forever 21 goodies for every minimum purchase of ₱5,000 will also be given on the weekend.

Get all warm and cozy in Forever 21's eclectic mix of maxi dresses, leggings, message prints, and more.

Trendspotting at Forever 21

Here's a first look at holiday trends at Forever 21 stores.

Boho Chic. Channel your inner flower child with a free spirited mix of exciting pieces and textures.

Party Time. You'll be every party's IT girl with sultry, shimmer and shine looks that stands the polka dots and bow ties.

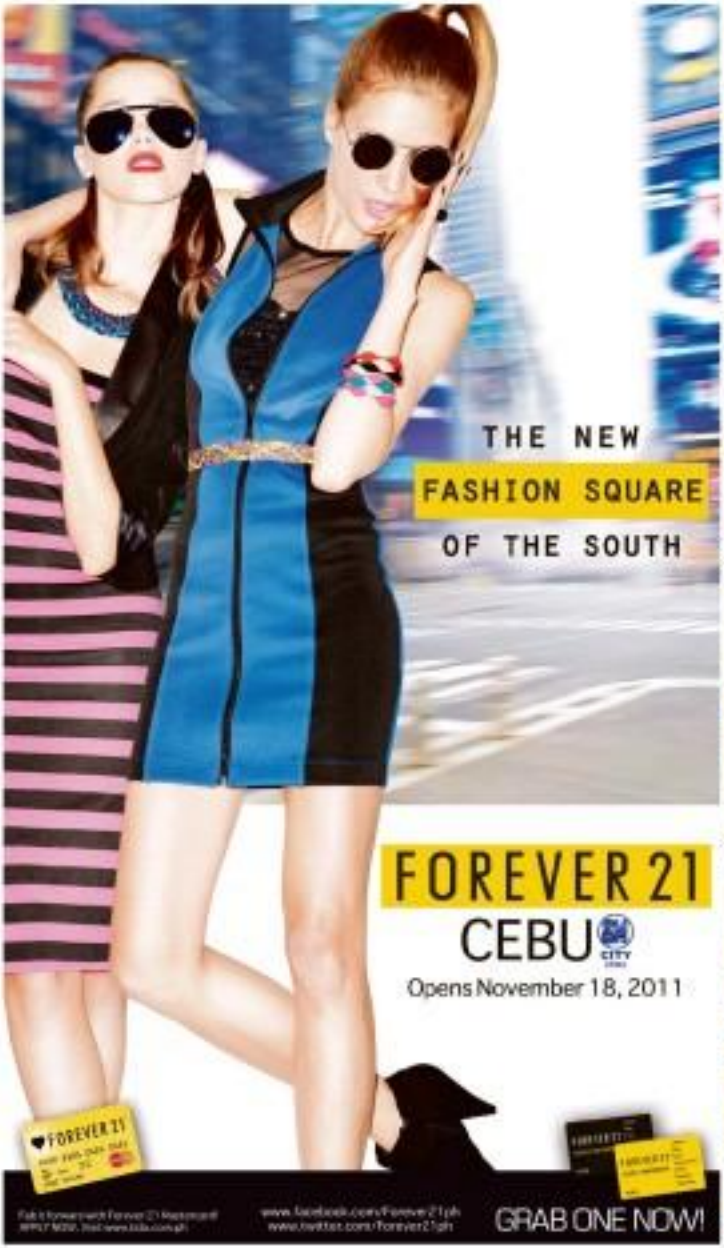
Luxe Appeal. Dress it up with luxurious and sophisticated pieces in chiffon, lace, furs and fur.

Retro Couture. Take a trip down memory lanes in freshly picked florals, plaids, distressed denims, corals and plenty of frills.

Urbanite Mix. It's all about a melange of unique pieces from varied inspirations. Express yourself with bold colors, leather jackets, vintage prints and details, and more. Throw it together to create a look that's unique and singular.

Glam Rock. Amp up the fashion cute in sleek, sexy, edgy pieces with fringes, lace and studs that make the whole look rock.

Forever 21 is located at the 2nd floor of SM Megamall Building A, Ground Floor of SM Makati and at the Northwing of SM City Cebu.



Rock royalty's runway is stripped raw. Sky body swatches, leather jackets and fiery prints.

Love the country in a mix of paisley printed tops and skirts, and sweaters, cords and jackets in muted earth colors.

Mix, match and layer-it's fab (as in so) and printed pieces for that boho chic look.

Light up the night in high-waist sequins and pops of fun colors.

Steal the limelight in fab feminine silhouettes with playful prints.

LIFESTYLE Food

CHEFS COOK FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER (13TH IN A SERIES)

Pesto pasta with sundried tomato and artichokes, for his wife and no. 1 critic

But, at the end of the day, it's still good old Pinoy food for chef Greg Villalon

CHEF Greg Villalon of Global Culinary and Hospitality Academy PHOTO BY BJ

By Vergie Boga-Reyes

HE LOOKS somewhat like Hayden Kho and Ricky Davao, don't you think? Thirty-two-year-old Greg Villalon's charming looks, playful eyes and winning smile can easily land him in show business.

However, Villalon, who's 6-ft tall, prefers to wear a sparkling white chef's jacket, and he is culinary teacher.

Villalon is Global Culinary and Hospitality Academy's head of operations. He is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu, Canada, with a degree in Classical French Cuisine. He has trained in Hispaniae restaurant by Jose Andres, Le Cirque Bleu, a five diamond-rated restaurant by the Canadian/American Automobile Association, as well as in Michel Roux Senior and Vineria Hotel, Ontario, Canada.

He has also worked in prominent restaurants in Canada, Singapore and the Philippines. Villalon is a certified Servsafe Food Protection manager, Servsafe is a food-safety training and certification program guided by the National Restaurant Association.

He's taught for seven years and is now responsible for the creation and implementation of individualized training at Global Academy.

Before this, Villalon was in a field distant from culinary arts—he's a graduate of Social Sciences at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"Honestly, I really didn't want to go into college," says Villalon. "After my high school at Ateneo there was not much option in culinary schools. HRM was offered only at UP So I settled for Social Science."

Influence

Villalon's interest in food began when his parents ran a restaurant in the '90s.

"My family used to run a Spanish restaurant (Endaxil) at the Manila Ice Skating," he says. "That was where I got my interest in cooking. I also managed to for a while before my family decided to close it down."

"Looking back, I began tinkering in the kitchen in high school. I would cook my own food if I didn't like the food at home. I love grilling, so I would play with the marinade or cook meat loaf. I wanted to eat good food basically when I was a kid. That led me to the kitchen."

He can now dish out any cuisine—French, Middle Eastern, Spanish, etc.—but at the end of the day, Villalon says it would always be Pinoy food for him.

Pasta for her

His wife of three years, Berta Nieto Villalon, is also a chef. "She's the one who inspired me to cook more and to be more creative," he says.

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Outstanding tacos, pancakes and more

I USED to drive by this place along Makati Avenue and buy a few tacos from a small window at the back of the restaurant. If I remember correctly, the cost was 35 centavos then.

As all of us got exposed to the different authentic versions, many were appealing maybe like taco-locantes no longer so appealing. But not this one. It has withstood the influx of other foreign versions. Even in comparison to those I have tried abroad, it is still mouth-watering.

The place is Pancho Villa's, and it has evolved into a complete restaurant with everything for everyone. Every weekend, my whole family comes for different items from its menu. Since I live in the Kalayaan area where dining places are a dime a dozen, we go for consistency when dining out. There is nothing worse than to expect a certain quality in a meal and not find it.

Quality control

All restaurants should copy the quality control of Pancho Villa's. The Kalayaan branch has become my favorite for lunch or dinner. Before, I was happy to have just the taco. Now, I crave for other things. I order the simple Chicken Pork Adobo, while my wife Irma loves the arroz's breakfast offerings, plus pancakes with bacon and eggs.

My son Hanes enjoys the Hot Bacon Steak open-face sandwich with gravy and a peanut butter waffle, while my daughter Ali loves the spaghetti and a taco salad she breaks and mixes.

My son Arturo often has two tacos, spaghetti and a bacon steak. As with bacon on the side and unlimited iced tea, and my daughter Danielle loves her Hawaiian pizza.

These days, I always have a bowl of the most delicious tuna salad and some huge bowl of the famous Taco Salad. I also love the Chocolate Waffles topped with whipped butter, peanut butter and maple syrup. I don't pour the syrup over so as to keep the crunch.

Pancho Villa's has dozens of branches all over the metro. Happy eating!

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Round turkey

When a Thanksgiving celebration without a roast stuffed Turkey? I suppose you try that! Bob and chef Ginay's Bean turkey with all the trimmings and an outstanding bonus, rice gravy. Call over tomorrow to reserve for Thanksgiving or any celebration.

By the way my cookbook, "Cooking With Sandy Daza," sold at National Book Store, is the cutest book selling Philippine publication as of yesterday!

E-mail the author at sandy.daza@yahoo.ca.

Pesto pasta with sundried tomato and artichokes . . .

Pesto Pasta with Sundried Tomato and Artichokes

(Served with Parmesan Tuile, Fresh Bread, and a Roasted garlic and Anchovy-Lemon Oil Dip)

Yield: two servings

Ingredients:

- 120 g spaghetti
- 30 g onion, chopped
- 20 g sundried tomato, julienne
- 60 g artichokes, quartered
- salt and pepper to taste
- 20 g basil, pickled
- 5 g pine nuts
- 3 g parmesan cheese, grated
- 100 ml olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 20 g parmesan cheese, grated

Oil

- 1 pc red baguette
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 bulb garlic
- 10 g anchovy
- lemon rind, chopped (from 2 pc lemon)
- 5 g parsley, chopped
- 100 ml olive oil

Procedure:

Cook spaghetti noodles, toss in oil and set aside.

For the pesto:

Combine basil, pine nuts, parmesan cheese and olive oil in a blender. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

For the parmesan tuile:

Line a tray with silpat. Arrange grated parmesan cheese in rectangular shapes. Bake in the oven until golden brown (about 3-4 minutes). Allow to cool and cut into small rectangles. Set aside.

For the bread:

Slice baguette into quarters. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with chopped garlic.

For the dip:

Cut garlic bulb crosswise in two half. Drizzle with olive oil and bake until soft, about 15 minutes. Remove from oven and mash in a bowl together with the anchovy. Add in lemon rind, chopped parsley and olive oil. Mix well.

Spread the chopped onion, sundried tomatoes and artichokes in pasta. Add in the cooked spaghetti and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with parmesan tuile, bread, and dip on the side.

E-mail the author at chops@inquirer.com.ph

VILLALON cooks for his co. 1 COOL with Rosa Mesa Villalon

PESTO Pasta with Sundried Tomato and Artichokes, served with Parmesan Tuile, Fresh Bread, and a Roasted garlic and Anchovy-Lemon Oil Dip

PHOTOS BY MARIAN BERDIN

Goldilocks' delicious legacy now between covers

THE PHILIPPINES' biggest bakeshop, Known for the Goldilocks' Signature bakeshop favorites, such as Duffy mansion cheese empanada, ever-soft stuffed cake slices, classic polvoron and mantika roll, now includes Goldilocks: The Cookbook.

The Goldilocks Bakeshop is a historic collection of 108 recipes, 203 pages of eye-catching photos, and an overview of the company's beginnings.

A true Filipino icon, Goldilocks has long accompanied each birthday wedding, baptism, graduation, anniversary or just about any get-together espousing a uniquely Filipino passion for delightful sharing and thoughtful giving with good food.

In the same manner, sisters Milagros Leobe Sto and Gloria Leobe Go, and their sister-in-law, Doris shared a passion for baking, cake decorating and cooking and opened the first Goldilocks store along Panay Ilaza, Makati in May 1966.

The sisters pursued the same passion toward perfection, by carefully developing each Goldilocks recipe, and by building the company to what it is today.

In celebration of 45 Goldilocks years, Goldilocks writes a new chapter in its storied legacy—honoring its past while celebrating a heritage for the future—through the Goldilocks Bakebook.

Freddie Go Sr., Goldilocks board chair, envisioned and began the groundwork for this living tribute to Tee and Go. Those two women have undeniably and relentlessly pursued the perfection of each Goldilocks product, much to the delight of their loyal customers.

Flip through the pages of the Goldilocks Bakebook to discover the recipes and tried-and-true secrets Goldilocks masters, the ingredients toward building your own fairytale story.

The Goldilocks Bakebook by Tee and Go (with food styling done by chef Gerry Tesoro and photographed by Jeff Tria Food Creatives) is available in all National Book Store branches, and select Goldilocks outlets.

DINING OUT

Top Thai resto marks 9th year

AUTHENTIC Thai home cooking is offered at Cooks Thai Isla, Noodles & Spiral Emerald 3. Now on its 9th year, the resto's Thai chef, Thapanee Sangkhen, heads the kitchen and prepares its bestsellers such as Crispy Catfish Salad, Mushrooms Yum Yam Talé, Chicken Pandan, Pad Thai, Chicken in Green Curry, Beginning Rice, Chicken Satay, Pad Kee Mao, Grilled Squid, Prawns with Basil & Chilies, and Sticky Rice with Mango. Thai drinks include Thai Iced Tea, Thai Iced Coffee, Pandan Juice, Lemongrass Juice and Pineapple Iced Tea. The recently launched new menu includes Crispy Squid, Prawn Cake, Minced Tofu Salad, Fish Red Curry, Pomelo Salad, Basil on Chicken Macanese, Thai Fried Grilled Pepper Sauce and Tom Kelly in Coconut. Cooks Thai Emerald 3 Ayala Center, Makati. Tel: 757-4258

Unlimited cake & coffee

Craving is such! On 23rd year with Tiara Unlimited Cravings Seafood Buffet, Unlimited Cake Coffee buffet. Priceless! P198. Cravings offers sell all you can cake and you may choose from four special cakes of the day—Black Mudslide Cake, Strawberry Cheesecake, Milk Chocolate Cake, Creamy Walnut Cheesecake, Smores Caramel Cake, Tiara Cheesecake, Choco Caramel Cake, Double Chocolate Cake, Dulce de Leche, White Choco Caramel Mud, Black and White Fantasy, Chocolate Overload, Devil's Food Cake and the Classic Tiramisu. Complement these delightful sugary treats with the famed 108 blend for a cure-all-a-tized dessert! Tiara. Tiara. www.cravingsgroup.com.

Grilled turkey tail

Feel the spirit of Thanksgiving this November with the new Bayan Bar-be-saan appetizer: the Grilled Turkey Tail, absolutely free all Mondays of November. Buy any Bayan Barbecue meal and get this appetizer for free. Enjoy this delicious appetizer with any of their famous barbecue meals: the Boneless Chicken Barbecue, Pork Barbecue, Grilled Bangus Belly, Grilled Pusit, Grilled Tuna Belly, Grilled Salmon Belly, Grilled Liempo and Grilled Hamburger Steak—all served with Java Rice, Peanut Sauce, Pina-Pina Sauce and Atchara or Unsalabong Salong.

Fiesta Filipino buffet

Discovery Primea Boracay presents November buffet—featuring Fiesta Filipino buffet, Indonesian by international flavors. Buffet price is at P995, per person, available at Gusto Restaurant which opens at 7 p.m. Call 2308888, 7196802, 7196805; visit www.discoveryprimeaboracay.com.

Roasted stuffed turkey

The Bellevue Hotel's Café d'Arte celebrates Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 24. Savor the tasty, succulent Roasted Stuffed Turkey with Giblet and Puree, delicious Filet Mignon Rossini, Roasted Lechon and Stuffed Chicken Breast with Goat Feta Cheese and Basil Beurre Blanc. Call 771-9191, 891-42-1918, 0918-827-3181.

Triple treat dessert

Lolo Mario Restaurant offers dessert sampler of creamy Ube and Langka Panna Cotta, Creme de Coco topped Cinnamon-Nata Pudding and warm Fried Suman at Tinikolan. Lolo Mario Restaurant is the main dining outlet of The Legend Villas at Puerto Azul, Biñan-Batangas. Call (02)2196; visit www.legendvillas.com.ph.

Bundle meals

Tempura Boy offers new Bundle Meals. Get custom of your all time favorite meals served with 6 pcs of Ice-cold Coke and save P12! Then, drop your cravings in a loved-ed edition "I Love to Save" selection—time with every Bundle meal. Try also the Tempura Boy Refresh this Curry Tonkatsu and a mixed of rice with Coke.

SEAFOOD BUFFET

The Red Crab Allmeyin Home features Seafood Market Buffet. Red Crab Allmeyin is at Greenbelt 2, 3/L, Ayala Center, Makati City. Buffet is from Monday-Sunday. Lunch buffet (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) is priced at P586+ per person. Monday-Sunday lunch is at 2:30 p.m. and dinner (5-9 p.m.) is at 688+. Call 7291125, 7574716.

Salmon tournedos

The Container Riviera along Timog Avenue at Quezon City has introduced a Christmas lineup of dishes. The restaurant offers Cocktails, its version of the Spanish roasted suckling piglet and is good for 10-12 people. It should be ordered one day in advance, and fits perfectly for family gatherings. For starters, try the Scallops à L'Aglione, a caramelized French onion soup with sherry and red wine that is very filling and good. There's also the Sopa de Pescadero, a puree of butternut and potatoes with stuffed fresh pasta or small noodle pasta. Steakhouse classics include the Roast Beef Wellington and the Paella Valenciana, but remember the Container's unique way. For seafood, there's Salmon Tournedos, oven-baked salmon with Foie Gras and Apple Figs Compote and Gnocchi Spinach, which can also be ordered separately with spinach and fennel sauce. The Container's also has lineup of pizza and pasta. Save hassle with an eye for Italian-style pizza will find delight with the Calabrese, topped with tuna, anchovies, capsicum and olives, or with the Semi Jacques with its generous topping of oysters. For pasta, choose from Bolognese Parma ham, tomatoes and basil, Vongole (linguine olive oil with clams). Call 9156815, 5868756 or 09478240435.

Classic carbonara

Bistro Filippo Steak offers Tasty Carbonara—the Classic Carbonara with mushrooms and a snowfall of cheese. Tochaku, served with the deep, delicious flavors of Filipino Kare-kare with a three-color relish Cake. From now until supplies last, you'll get a free "I love to save" canister for every order of Tasty Carbonara.

Meal & room packages

Dusit Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila offers not all your usual coffee-and-cakes with room reservations. Amazing Sweet Package, a P15,800 per night, includes accommodation in Deluxe and Junior Rooms, breakfast for two, unlimited cakes and coffee at Sugar, 10 percent discount at the Hollywood Steak House, swimming pool access for emergency. Package B, at P16,800 per night, has all the offerings of Package A plus a special dinner. Dusit Dusitnet, at Holly-wood Hills, Subdivision, Samuhong Highway, Antipolo City, call 5820100, 6813816, and www.dusitnikko.com.ph.

Fresh, premium seafood delivered to your doorstep

I HAVE relied on Mida Food for just about every seafood need: Rib of any kind (tuna, skate, rough), trout, spadap (tuna, baldfish, salmon), fruit or smoked, whole, headless, fillet, steak-cut, break, belly roll cut, head, any part and any which way; crustaceans (shelled on a half shell, semi-shelled, whole, cleaned), mussels, scallops, shrimp (shrimp balls/shrito-shrito balls), kani, lobsters (cabuki/tatik), cephalopods (octopus and squid of all sizes, cleaned/whole, etc.).

The list goes on.

I just concluded a seafood class and was once again very happy. The enthusiastic Mida team of Chingbing Tunco, Enrique Valles and Lynette Aquarta always delivers supplies on time, wherever, even on very short notice.

I worked a delicious black molasses with lemon truffle sauce. The black bass came very much like the Dalisay. The difference is that the flesh is darker, with slightly firmer bite. It's a whole lot cheaper, too, and the sea cold has an abundant supply of it, according to Valles, Mida's chief commercial officer.

The baby squids were equally delectable, as rich in touch, including the head. This was how I cooked them: I washed, cleaned and removed the bone, then drained and sautéed the squids with salt and pepper, with a good squeeze of lemon juice.

I then put the squids in a fried fig bag where I mixed 2/3 cup cornstarch (I like it better than flour) and 1/3 cup potato starch with a pinch of salt. I shook them and the squids were evenly coated with the flour mixture.

Then, I deep-fried them in hot oil until nice and lightly golden.

Do not overcook, and do not overload your pancetta.

I took the squid to batches and made a low simmer for the oil in once again heat up between the removal of the cooked batch and the frying of the next.

I served the dish with house-made aioli (garlic mayonnaise), achar (pickled vegetables), cherry tomatoes, olive oil, parsley salt, pepper and lemon juice) and lemon wedges.

DELIVERY from Mida Food, (right) Dulce de Leche

New service

I have worked with Mida for so long but never have I been as excited as I am now, with Mida's new service of delivering us customers. It's a truly Christmas present to those who cook with dry ice, put together based on your budget, with recipes, a beautiful box and your Christmas wishes on a card!

It even accepts credit card payments. Its delivery trucks are equipped with wireless credit card machines. How cool is that?

It's not too wide to talk, Mida will deliver any order for a P500 fee. (Delivery fees are waived for orders P5,000 and above.)

On Mida's Christmas promo list: halibut, salmon, seabass, US squid, kaja, soft-shell crab, New Zealand half-shell mussels.

Something to relish! "Special occasion must go to our smoked salmon, as it really is the best in town, promise!" (Mida Food, tel. 09157-8982207 or 5209865).

Gourmet desserts

Rio's Gourmet Desserts has opened its doors at 372 A. Mabini, San Juan.

I got to know of Rio's while dining in a coffee shop. The caramel cake we brought home had a writer that read Rio's with contact numbers. I then ordered custard cupcakes (a la crème brûlée) and a couple of mini apple pies.

The apple pie is classic, the type we grow up with before everything became so complicated...packed with apples and capped with nice generous helping of moist crumbly streusel. I enjoy it warmed in toaster oven with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Till forgotten about Rio's until a month ago when I was on my way to pick up my son, Diego. I saw the cake box-like structure that serves as store in San Juan, and I just had to drop by.

I was hungry and had a few minutes to spare before dismissal time. I had a slice of moist lasagna and a slice of dulce de leche. I like eating sweet and savory at the same time, really.

The lasagna was delicious. It was meaty, and the wave lasagna noodle used perfectly held the chunky pieces of meat and then gave the dish a substantial bite. It satisfying mouthful, it was the perfect combination of flavors.

The quantity of Bolognese was not on par right, enough to keep it moist and tasty yet not drowning, and it is generously slathered with cheese.

The lasagna is always available and comes in three sizes. Perfect for a holiday potluck or even if you're just too lazy to cook for the family.

The serve even carries vegetable lasagna. I've vowed to try it sometime, though the meat lasagna always calls louder than the veg-ready one.

I also enjoy eating the wheat crisps with just about anything—dips, spreads, paté and the runny parmesan mozzarella thread-y, not the soft, airy kind). There are all welcome additions to our list of Christmas gift ideas. (Rio's, tel. 3711408, 7346321, 7155831).

For information on my new cooking class: ayanne.ph

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aquino

St Giles Hotel

MAKATI - METRO MANILA

Be central

St Giles Hotel Makati (SGHM) - a new luxury hotel inside its family in Asia, opening its doors for the first time in the Philippines last July 1, 2010. It is managed by Colliers Hotel Management, a subsidiary of KSK Concorde, for the first in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Filipino family values close ties with everyone in the clan. Parents work very hard and even go abroad to earn more to support their loved ones. Almost every Filipino family has experienced the joy of receiving a "balikbayan" box where goodies from another country are hand-along with pasalubong and letters from their beloved relatives.

St Giles is one of expanding away Filipino family expanding quality time with their "balikbayan" relatives to spend their hard-earned money in the best way possible. Book two nights in a Superior Room for 2 persons and pay only P3,500 net per person. Package includes buffet breakfast, welcome drink, internet access, 10% discount on food, beverage and laundry services, and complimentary use of fitness facilities and swimming pool.

All-inclusive shuttle service to and from Ayala Malls. Special lower rate for additional person in the room also available. Child below 6 years old stay for free. Deluxe Room also available at P4,000 net per person. Based on room sharing. Offer valid until December 17, 2011 only. Passport and resident ID must be presented to avail. Rates subject to and for walk-in guests.

St Giles Hotel is located at Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations, please call +632 899-9999 or +632 888 9888 or book online at www.StGilesMakati.com

Baked Rack of Lamb in one, Beef Bourguignonne in the other

THE QUIET DINER

RESTOS AT A GLANCE

THESE TWO restaurants have managers who are well-trained in every aspect of operations and management. Larry Cortes and Mauro Arjona manage two in-the-Chef's Quarter group of restaurants, which are now gaining steadily discernible on two sides of the metropolis.

Bruno Blanc Restaurant and Wine Bar, 2/L Rotary World, Serpent Hill, Pasay City; tel. 8884342

It was a surprise that Larry Cortes, as one point the efficient restaurant manager of one of Manila's finest dining places and who we missed for sometime, has partnered with chef Mauro Arjona, also former of the same chain, in this and three other new ventures. Needless to say, we expected his usual A-1 food and service.

Setting area—"Bonjour" is humor, and "blanc" refers to white wine. Thus, the magnificent centerpiece is the elegantly appointed dining area in a tall ambiance of the White Goddess, the resulting picture to enjoy a good meal in the French tradition. Interiors are in dark brown, tables are with comfortable French Provençal chairs.

Service—Fast and efficient

Staff—Knowledgeable and gracious, comparatively quiet, but they anticipate diners' needs.

Suggested menu—Food from French-Med cuisine is done mostly with wine and bacon. Here we rediscovered an old favorite salad with a new twist—Mesclun greens with a mix of marinated salmon, grilled prawns, scallops and shiitake mushrooms in creamy balsamic dressing with sun-dried tomatoes and Provençal dressing.

Because we are lamb fanatics, we enjoyed the perfectly done Baked Rack of Lamb with Cajun Herb-de-Provence in garlic, thyme juice with feta cheese and potato wedges. Our companion took the Roasted Chilean Bass in butter and wine, quite interesting in flavor but she did not care. Finishing the succulent fish with a flourish.

The food selection includes The Marinated Duck Confit in Port Wine and Raspberry sauce, classic cooked in the Chef's magic Beef (US Rib Eye), but we passed it up and went on to dessert because we could never resist the original soufflés with Frangelico and chocolate sauce. We chose the new Banana and Coffee Di Stefli.

Another is the rich Chocolate Coffee Fondant with strawberry yogurt. After that very satisfying meal, a strong coffee is a must.

Bruno Blanc also customizes gift certificates in P500 and P1,000.

Service charge is added to the bill, house orders needs are honored.

Rating

Old Vine Grille, Unit 110-116 *The Venue Paseo, Upper Mid Valley Road, McKinley Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; tel. 8564960-78*

The second resto in the chain, but for some reason not explained to us, we were served in the dining area of its sister restaurant Bruno. Apparently service is shared by the two establishments.

Setting area—The ambiance is friendly, but at Bruno, one gets the feel of a Filipino restaurant, unlike in the adjacent Old Vine dining room, which seems more formal. The faux rattan are luminated, the chairs made of woven cane. There is enough space to move around.

Service—Quick and efficient

Staff—Pleasant, accommodating

Suggested menu—Old Vine is basically a Steak House, but start with either homemixed Salmon Carpaccio with Champagne Vinaigrette or the Sun-Dried Pesto Gratin for the hearty and Mac-N-Cheese and Barbecue Oven Ribs—either grilled US rib blade with sautéed mushrooms and escargot, or Beef Bourguignonne, tender beef braised in red wine with mushrooms and onions.

The dishes are served over low lights in keeping with the mood. That should be enough to whet the appetite.

For dessert, never miss the Fruit Pavlova, a flat dish where everyone digs into for chick boiling chocolate.

Service charge is collected. *Senior cards* are honored.

Rating

Pinoy wins regional bartending tilt in Malaysia

BARTENDER Gil Raymund Ong of TGI Friday's Robinsons Place Ermita was adjudged grand champion in the recently concluded Regional TGI Friday's Bartending Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The prize money was $1,000. The four-time TGI Friday's Philippines Bartending Champion displayed mastery, technique and expertise during the event participated in by seven bartenders from around Asia. Bartenders from Taiwan and Japan won 1st and 2nd runner-up honors, respectively. Ong impressed the judges with his smooth manipulation of cocktail shakers, mastery in mixing drinks, as well as his showmanship in flipping, juggling and tossing bottles in the air with ease and style. The win also came with the privilege to officially represent the country in the TGI Friday's World Bartending Championship in Texas slated in February, which puts together the best Friday's bartenders in nine countries. Ong garnered 1st runner-up honors at last year's World Bartending Competition in the USA. The Friday's Philippines contingent came in full force to root for Ong, led by Bebe Group of Restaurants president and CEO William Stelton and COO Jose Paul Manzoni. Ong and several other Friday's bartenders in the country will also represent the country in the TGI Friday's Asia Pacific Championship in Kuala Lumpur via Cebu Pacific, the official partner of TGI Friday's in the Bartending Competition along with Smirnoff.

GIL RAYMUND Ong of TGI Friday's Robinsons Place Ermita

WHY AM I LOSING HAIR? WHAT SHOULD I DO TO STOP IT?

Each day many women live in mental agony because of hairloss. For most, losing one's hair is not an easy, but for women it can be a thousand times worse psychologically. You can end up depressed with lower self-esteem and suffer increased worries and insecurities. Free yourself from hairloss now. Free yourself from anxieties and fears!

Why am I losing hair?

There are a lot of factors that can cause hairloss in women.

- **Genetic** – this is the root of Androgenetic Alopecia (Female Pattern Baldness). It's the women's reaction to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) that blocks hair production and causes hair to thin out.
- **Stress** – situations with extreme pressure, anxiety or trauma can prematurely shift countless hairs from growing to resting (telogen) phase. The result: severe hair fall.
- **Hormonal imbalance** – giving birth or certain diseases can be such a distress to the hair follicles and cause them to shut down for awhile. In just a few weeks, the hair will start to shed.
- **Autoimmune disorder** – the body mistakenly attacks the hair follicles and disrupts the hair growth. Most cases can end up with coin-sized bald patches.
- **Medications** – chemotherapy is the most common treatment where countless hair cells are destroyed. Patients undergoing chemotherapy can experience an advanced state of hairloss.

What should I do to stop hairloss and regain thicker, healthier hair?

In the Philippines, there's a hairloss center that offers technologically advanced treatments and personalized hair recovery programs especially formulated for women. **Svenson**. Look forward to flaunting more lush, more lustrous locks in no time!

REALIF CORRECTIVE – thoroughly eliminates dandruff, nourishes the scalp and rejuvenates its healthy conditions. Save your scalp now, save your hair early!

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER – it stabilizes hair growth while inducing nutrients to make weak strands stronger. Hair becomes fuller, shinier and more manageable!

ULTRA-LUSH VOLUMIZER – stops severe hairloss and helps recover hair's original volume and vitality. So you'd start looking more beautiful with more hair!

At Svenson, you'll never suffer from hairloss again! Call now at **892-HAIR(4247)/234-0891** (Cebu) for a FREE private consultation.

Sablefish and Arctic char from Canada, lamb and wine from Sardinia

MY HOST named who attending another country's food festival is to cover in on the unfamiliar. For the Canada Food Festival, it was home. I looked like a flat-nosed doughnut (without the hole) and it tasted like it, dipped in a maple syrup concoction. It was explained that beauty is the country's national animal.

The festival chef was Canadian Dawson Campbell from Vancouver, British Columbia, also the executive sous chef of the Ritz-Carlton Grand Hotel. He looked like he was thrilled to show off his country's cuisine, even the beaver tail, but he also wanted to promote the fine ingredients into Canada export all over the world.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Pineda

Being from British Columbia, Chef Campbell said he wanted to highlight the fresh seafood the place is known for.

"I incorporated three different types of salmon in my dishes with two different cooking techniques – smoked and cold-cured," he said.

The sockeye or pacific salmon, especially, is considered native Canadian. The chef aims to exhibit two of his favorite fish—sablefish and Arctic char. These were also the favorites during the tasting. The texture of Arctic char (Salvelinus alpinus) reminded us of fish cod. Campbell served it with maple fried rice, bacon and pepper, Sablefish (Anoplopoma fimbria) was like Chilean sea bass, the popular name for Patagonian toothfish. The chef glazed it with a spiced maple syrup.

Of course, when Canadian food is promoted, maple syrup has to be there, whether used as a sauce for the fishes or in the wonderful desserts. The maple leaf is incorporated in Canada's flag.

But the chef also made sure that the different regions of Canada were represented, in the duck confit with caramelized onion duxelle in the style of Montreal; the cubed pork and white bean casserole of Quebec; straw roasted beef loin representing Alberta; and French fine cuisine from New Brunswick.

Campbell was chef de cuisine at Lutèce, **the highly rated fine dining restaurant of Shangri-La Boracay Resort & Spa** represented his home country in the many culinary escapades. Bravo, reaping gold medals in Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. He has worked in many restaurants in Canada and the United States, one of which is The French Laundry in Napa Valley.

Asked what important lesson he learned from the famous Thomas Keller, Chef Campbell said, "being a great chef isn't just a profession; it is a lifestyle."

"Canada SEAfs It Up!" **is on until November 20 at Heat, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong. For reservations and inquiries, call 6338888.**

Sardinian exclusive

The unfamiliar element at the "Food and Wines of Sardinia" were the wines. Four Cantini wines were to be served at lunch, and each one was described by wine specialist Fabrizio Moncello. What he stressed is how the Vermentinos grape variety is a Sardinian exclusive, and while it can be grown elsewhere in Italy, it can only be claimed by Sardinia. It's like champagne that can only be claimed by the French Champagne region, and all the others have to be called "sparkling wine."

When wine great about having lunch with Moncello at Dad he is Sardinian and so has something personal in his stories. He said his mother is still back home in that second-largest island in the Mediterranean where there are many centenarians probably because of the laid-back lifestyle and unpolluted environment.

The earliest people were the Sardins, who dominated the area for thousands of years but whose people were decimated by a tsunami in 1000 B.C. It has been under the rule of Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Arabs and the Spanish. The Spanish ruled the island at about the same time they subjugated the Philippines. The remains of huge towers are reminders of that period.

Favored food

Fish is Sardinia's favored food and we started the lunch with cod muller and mullet cocotte, a wonderfully light dish. From the sea, fish farms or products, and Alcudella, cuisine cod and muller. The dish was taken with the Vermentino di Sardinia.

The soup was also of fish with shellfish, flavored with fennel. It came with grated Pecorino cheese on the side, the cheese a specialty of Sardinia. The Karmis wine tasted with it combines the Vermentino grapes with the Semacia that is used in Cantini's dessert wine.

The slow-roasted lamb rump was marinated in garlic and rosemary and was cooked until done. The goodness was soaked Semacia di Ortinosa, which Moncello said comes the aroma of the Sardinia countryside.

This Sardinia wine pairing menu will be available the whole month of November at lunch and dinner at The Prince Albert Rotisserie of the InterContinental Manila in Makati. Call 7933000.

E-mail pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

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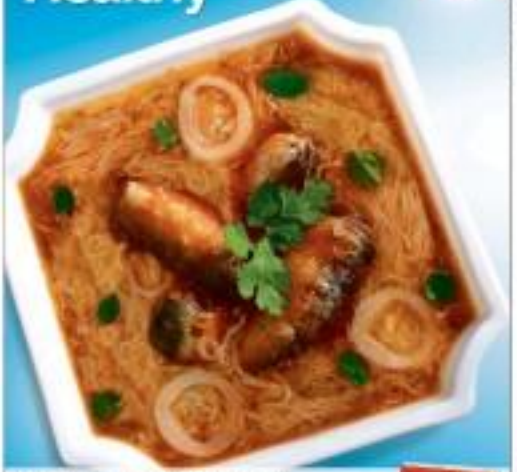

Sapporo Misua with Sardines

ENTERTAINMENT

Edito Barrios G. Velarde

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'Unimaginable moment'

Oprah Winfrey, receiving an honorary Oscar for charitable work, is what she called an "unimaginable" moment. "All of us can make a difference through the life we lead. We're all here to help each other," Reuters

HEARD

ANNE Curtis: I felt hurt.

Much ado about her hasty exit

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS-TV host Anne Curtis says she meant no disrespect for GMA 7 and its artists when she commented on her Twitter page about an incident at a recent awards ceremony.

"I'm not thinking the network or its artists. I even said in my tweets, 'Don't get mad at the GMA staff. They probably had their own reasons. I'm just saying this so I'm conscious of it [sic] so that it won't happen[sic] again, why I suddenly disappeared'," the actress said, quoting her tweets posted on Nov. 11.

Curtis was referring to the USTv Students' Choice Awards Kick-Off Party on Nov. 13 at the University of Santo Tomas campus in España, Manila. The USTv awards is an annual event that honors outstanding personalities whose students believe "promote positive values in pop culture or television."

"I was made to go [to UST] between 7 and 7:30 p.m.," Curtis recalled. "They [organizers] told my road manager that as soon as I get there, it would be my turn [to go onstage]. So I waited a... They told me that those TPS people aren't really performing, I would appear after them and before the GMA 7 artists."

Rival station intrusion

Curtis claimed that a staff member from GMA 7 tried to stop her from going onstage. "I said to her, 'the two minutes sing to hi and hello. I didn't even understand what her reply to me was. She just left me," Anne said. "I felt hurt. I simply wanted to say hello to the people. I have had could that he'll over and it's okay if I don't get to sing, but they really didn't allow me."

On Nov. 11, Angel Javier, GMA 7 AVP for corporate communications, said the network's "side of the story."

Javier pointed out that network representatives were briefed by organizers on program sequencing prior to the event, and that based on the schedule, GMA 7 artists were supposed to perform at 7 p.m.

"Our talents were at the venue as early as 5 p.m.," the GMA 7 statement said.

PAGE 02

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Much ado about her hasty exit

From page E1

"Last minute insertion of the cast of ABS-CBN's 'Banana Split' to the program, however, further pushed back the schedule."

GMA 7 not informed

Jester then said GMA 7 was not informed to any previous meeting that Carmen would be part of the program. However, Jester admitted that when the Kapuso artists were about to go onstage, they were asked if Carmen could go first.

"However, GMA did/I declined and instructed the floor director and production staff to please proceed with the program sequence, as the Kapuso stars also had others schedules to go to, and by that time were already waiting for nearly three hours," the statement said. "DMB later found out that Ms Cortes had left the venue and had tweeted about the incident ... which elicited a lot of negative reaction to our GMA."

The statement added: "We are hoping that the supporters could come forward and clarify matters to avoid blowing things out of proportion."

Organizer: 'Move on'

In a Nov. 13 statement to Inquirer.net, Mr. Jester Manotoc, ABS-CBN's corporate communications head Bong Osorio, he said "the organizers of the event, who should be the ones making the decision for the program, failed to control the incident."

On Nov. 14, the UST office of the secretary general, which organized the event, expressed regret over "any misunderstanding or confusion that may have occurred unintentionally and caused inconvenience to anyone."

In a statement sent to business entertainment, it encouraged "all parties" to "move on and continue with our common commitment of promoting positive values in mass media. After all, it is for this that the UST Students' Choice Awards came into being."

The organizer admitted that the event "featured a program with a predetermined sequence aimed at giving all the celebrities in attendance ample time to meet and perform before the Thomasian audience. Since the TV networks normally cannot declare the exact number of talents who would be able to come, last-minute adjustments were to available, subject, however, to mutual agreement of the concerned parties."

Defending her posse on Twitter, Carin said: "It's only proper that I explain to them (audience) the reason why I left. I save face to the Thomasians who worked and waited for me. Ilgnore, sana naregla na ang issue."

NEWPORT CINEMAS

THE THING
11:00am, 2:30pm, 4:30pm
9:30pm, 11:45pm

PUSS IN BOOTS 3D
11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

TOWER HEIST
11:30am, 4:20pm, 6:40pm, 10:00pm

PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:30pm

POWER PLANT CINEMA

TRESPASS - P/11
11:00, 3:50, 9:30, 7:00, 9:30

TOWER HEIST - P/11
12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20

PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN - P/11
12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

IN TIME (In 4DX - P/11)
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20

THE THING - P/11
12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

PUSS IN BOOTS (In 3D) - DP
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

Greenbelt

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PUSS IN BOOTS
PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
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TOWER HEIST
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ANAKANGKU
REEL STEEL
ACTIVITY 3
THE THING
ALI MALL
PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
KIRIKOU
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1 PUSS IN BOOTS
2 IN TIME
3 TOWER HEIST
4 PUSS IN BOOTS
PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
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MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4
1: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)/IN TIME
2: REAL STEEL
3: TOWER HEIST
4: DRIVE
5: THE THING
6: TRESPASS, PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
7: THERE BE DRAGONS

GREENBELT 1
1: THE THING
2: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN

GREENBELT 3
1: IN TIME
2: TOWER HEIST
3: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
4: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
5: DRIVE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
2: TOWER HEIST
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: THE THING
5: IN TIME

ayala center cebu
1: KILLER ELITE
2: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
3: PUSS IN BOOTS/IN TIME
4: SORCERER & THE WHITE SNAKE

MARQUEE
1: KILLER ELITE
2: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)/IN TIME
3: SORCERER & THE WHITE SNAKE
4: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN

MARKET! MARKET!
1: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
2: TOWER HEIST
3: THE THING
4: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
5: IN TIME
6: ADVANCE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: THERE BE DRAGONS
2: REAL STEEL
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)/PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN
4: DRIVE
5: THE THING
6: TOWER HEIST
7: TRESPASS

ABREEZA
1: PUSS IN BOOTS(3D)/IN TIME
2: KILLER ELITE
3: SORCERER & THE WHITE SNAKE
4: PRAYBEAT BENJAMIN

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

Movie Madness

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Father Quinn's Healing Mass
November 27 | Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Automatic Center
November 19-20

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Vilma Santos's event with The Company
November 20 | Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
One Hundred by Bob Ong
November 19 | Activity Center

MARQUEE
Classroom Lovers with Jericho Rosales LIVE!
November 19 | Activity Center

TRINOMA
Johnoy Danao - Jon Pax
November 19 & 20 | Activity Center

ABREEZA
Mrs. Santa Claus
November 19 | Activity Center

DRIVE
Filipinotown Philippines premiere with cast
November 19 | Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

ReQuest Dance Crew

Glorietta Live!
ReQuest Dance Crew
November 20 • 6:30pm • Glorietta 5 Atrium

Glorietta | Greenbelt | Alabang Town Center | Ayala Center Cebu | Marquee | Market! Market! | Trinoma | Marquee | Abreeza

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LOPEZ BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MONTS BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY FRANK ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day for financial speculation. It's also wonderful day for sports, parties, artistic events, romantic encounters and joyful celebration with children. Do you see why?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Some encounters be more well than. This is a great day to entertain at home. Lovely dinner, wine will be perfect, and discussions about family matters are enlightened.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Because you're in a positive frame of mind today, you can influence others positively with your warm, charming personality. Compliments flow well for you today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Business and commerce are favored today. You might want to look for a new job or think about how to boost your income. This is also a good day to shop.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Our focus is on your near today, which makes you a fit better than at the other days. Plan to spend time with friends. Your sparkle and playfulness are perfect for romance. This is also a good day for romance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a mid-good day for your ego, especially with respect to work, reputation and goals at home. You're in a good mood and handling others with ease.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Social meetings, collaborations and love affairs are favored today. Your charm and ability to get along with others are at their peak. Enjoy yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful today, even though it's not terribly difficult to fall into conflict with others. Don't let your temper get the best of you. People are not out to get you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a great day to travel or make travel plans. Talk to people from different backgrounds. Explore options in publishing, the media, healthcare and the law.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) What an inner energy about introduction, value, right and mechanical matters. Use discussion about alcohol constantly available will benefit you greatly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is an excellent day to do your own business and share friends and have professionals. Social encounters favor all kinds of creativity.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Because you're often very perceptive, you can sense what others are feeling and thinking. You also might want to do something to improve how your working space looks.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answers previous puzzle

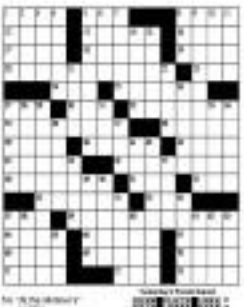
4	1	6	3	5	2	9	8	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
7	2	3	8	9	4	5	6	1
6	8	2	5	3	9	1	7	4
5	3	7	1	4	6	8	9	2
9	4	1	2	8	7	3	5	6
3	9	4	6	1	5	7	4	8
2	7	8	4	2	3	6	1	9
1	6	5	9	7	8	2	3	5

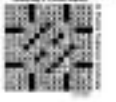
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4								
	9			1		2		
			7		5	9	4	
		7		8		4		
	2		4	7	6		8	
		9		2		7		
	7	3	2		1			
		6		4			9	
								6

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Future leaders in a sea of green

IT WAS an invitation that I couldn't pass up. The Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) invited me to be guest speaker at the Chief Whistler awarding ceremonies last Monday at the Philippine International Convention Center. I did want my career switching (for Girl Scout Promise and Law for my very first cleaner outfit), the least I could do was to express my thanks.

I haven't done anything as a girl scout to merit any sort of commendation, but the 500 attendees on Monday absolutely have. Coming from across the country—Baguio and Western Mindanao, northern, Central and Southern Luzon, and the Visayas—they received medals for good work in their communities.

A video presentation showed these young women (high school and early college) involved in the field, distributing food, helping with medical care, playing games with children—with a cheerful expression on their faces. All in all, they helped over 20,000 families and some 2,000 children.

One by one, the ladies were onstage, executed the GSP salute, and received their medals with the left-handed handshake (the left hand is closer to the heart, it's Salud Bautista, GSP national president, explained).

I tried to look at each one in the eye. There was not one vicious stare. In each young woman was someone who had gained confidence in achieving something for herself and doing something special for others.

It took a while to give each scout her medals (one was given

BACK STORY

Lesa Salonga

in that scout's mother as a symbol of thanks), but it was worth it to shake the hand of a future doctor, lawyer, or public servant ... who would change the world someday.

Company for women

I only barely touched on "Sous Voleur" in my last New York article. (Stella needless to say, is here.

Most celebrated in 2010 is the many respected singers from Barrio, Mata (singer) suspected from Colombia, who looks like a cross between Jon Lovgren and Sofia Vergara (singer-songwriter), Peter Langdale (first Brazilian singer to have a sold-out gig at Madison Square Garden), Tuberia (one of the most respected singers from Barrio),

SMILES AT CINEMA ONE AWARDS NITES
(Clockwise from left) "Ka Oryang" lead star Alessandra de Rossi with the cast and crew accept the Cinema One Originals best picture trophy for "Ber Bits, about a young musician who witnesses the beginnings of a revolution during Martial Law; Sari Lluch Dalena gets the vampire scoop on Star Cinema's second best actor for "Ex the Bite"; Lilit Courtayre, legendary "tanong" of Philippine movies, wins best actress for the mockumentary "Six Degrees of Separation from Lilit Courtayre"; Phantom Baron is a crossover hit for film "Resistensia ng Bayan"; "Lihong Cabrera bags the best actor award for "Six Hallowing Today"; veteran filmmaker Maria D'Nara receives a lifetime achievement award from; a reserve for Nicko Love, and Geraldine Villareal as a top-five best supporting actress trophy, for "Six Degrees."

US indie made in Pampanga

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE INTERNATIONAL indie film, "Endless Night," is now in beginning to collaborate.

Radio Lumpur-based American owner-producer Rob Williams penned an ad on www.mindfly.com, a movie production website for job listings.

Filipino director Noel Tan, who has worked on TV shows and music videos, answered the ad and made it to the short list of six who eventually topped the auditions process, forming a team from Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

Williams said Tan's resume had impressed him. "Noel has a lot of experience and, more importantly, he's open to a collaborative working relationship between writer and director."

For 10 days, the "Darkest Night," described by Williams as a Gothic drama, was shot in Pampanga. Pampanga artist Ian Montemayor did his Americano Dr. Bray, French-Filipino Amie Guerrier, Malaysian Justin Chan and Filipinos Maxim Hermida, Ian Lloyd and Jenna Grant.

Story, who has worked in indie and studio films in the Hollywood Scene, thoroughly enjoyed the Pampanga shoot. "We were there in the summer," he said. "It was hot!" Still, he noded, the cast and crew seemed inspired. "We all worked hard. It wasn't a simple script."

Tan explained, "One story between 17 characters."

"I had a wonderful time just the same," Perry said. "I've traveled to different places, but I love getting to meet people so warm and friendly as Filipinos."

He loved the food, too. "I'm a pretty adventurous eater," he admitted. "Every day the crew brought a new dish for me." Then, the Michigan-bred actor sampled dinuguan, dairy and the inevitable balut. "I love eggs—poached, deviled or hard-boiled," he said. "But I had never had duck embryo."

Phi Filipino beers posted on FaceBook a video of Perry eating balut with Chan. "Everyone brought the Asian guy would've no problem and I'd be squeamish," Story recounted. The exact opposite happened. "Justin was relishing. For me, honestly, it was not a 'Fear Factor' thing," said Perry. "The texture was a bit weird, but it was delicious!"

The actor underscore quite ironic to guide for film choices.

RUSSELL Williams

"As an actor, I'm always looking for cutting-edge films," Perry said. Needless to say, he will, comes working in unfamiliar terrain, like the Philippines. This says a wide-ish situation, Perry insisted. "We were introduced to Filipino culture and the Philippines will be seen and discovered by other filmmakers who may want to shoot here."

DARREN Perry and Jenna Gardiner

Phil wants to have a future with Angel

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

PHIL Vunghaubaud and Angel Locsin

CELEBRITY Australian Phil Vunghaubaud would rather not use any label to his relationship with actress Angel Locsin. Phil's important, he said, is that they're enjoying each others' company right now.

"For us, the status or what you call the relationship, doesn't matter to us. We're just very, very happy.

...I've been spending with Angel as much as possible," Phil told the entertainment press in a recent joint-con that members here and Phil's brother James is football ambassador for SBTV—TV5's sports block on IBC-13.

In their three-year romance, Dr. brothers will be hosting their international football show, and lifestyle tips, which will be aired in between AXTN programs. The deal is as soon as an appropriate for them to further improve the youth to take up the sport...an advocacy they've been pursuing since 2009 via the Youngbaubaud Football Academy.

Very caring

Phil, who described Angel as "one of the most amazing people" he has ever met, said that despite being together for months now, each she still finds the time to be there.

"She teaches me Tagalog ... Tagalog songs, things like that. I learn a lot from Angel. She's very down-to-earth. She's human ... very caring," said the soft-spoken Australian forward and Loyola Meralco Sparks Football Club midfielder.

But the couple's relationship is not all Pink and Blue, Phil stressed. "I'm serious about her, and I want to have a future with her."

Phil also looks forward to one thing: cheering for the Ateneo in their coming friendly match against national football superstar David Beckham and the LA Galaxy team on Dec. 3.

Asked if he and Angel have tried playing football together, Phil smiled and said, "I hope to touch her to the future, but success young, pinpoint. She's busy ... with a new movie coming up. When we have time, I'd love to [redacted]."

Poster boy

Although football is Phil's priority, the 23-year-old athlete said he's not closing his doors on the prospect of joining showbiz, but at the moment, acting is out of the equation. However, he doesn't mind doing photo shoots for magazines and endorsements once in a while—although he finds these things more tiring than playing football.

He also enjoys the glamorous of being "one of the poster boys of the local football scene.

"Yeah, it's always good to draw those kids and see your billboard," he said, laughing. "And to know that you're promoting football at the same time is good. Obviously, [redacted] and to see me doing the same thing he does is great."

What Phil doesn't appreciate, however, are the random and sometimes bizarre [redacted] he receives from [redacted]. "Sometimes I have things and I'm like, 'Where did that come from?' How did you even think of that?' It's all new to me," he said.